PIXELS

By

TIM HERLIHY

Revisions by

TIMOTHY DOWLING

Current Revisions by

TIM HERLIHY

To be directed by
CHRIS COLUMBUS

February 19, 2014
Happy Madison
1492
Columbia Pictures

"Don't think of this like a comedy, think of it like a world wide vfx giant summer tentpole that just happens to be funnier than the typical world wide giant summer tentpole."

-Steven L. Spielberg*

*- Not THAT Steven Spielberg, another one. This one repairs ladies' footwear in El Segundo and was just a big fan of the script and wanted to explain that to all of you before you read it.

EXT. SUBURBS, DELAWARE, SUMMER OF 1982 - DAY *

Our hero, JULIAN BRENNER, 13, rides his bike through the * suburbs. Fast, crazed. TRIUMPH'S "MAGIC POWER" PLAYS AS * CREDITS BEGIN.

EXT. HOUSE, SUBURBS - DAY

As the song continues, WILL COOPER, age 13, is mowing his * lawn. His cute LITTLE SISTER is on the sidewalk, operating a lemonade stand. Brenner arrives, SKIDS his bike to a stop. Cooper looks at him. Brenner smiles.

YOUNG BRENNER
It's open.

Cooper abandons the lawn mower, grabs his bike and starts to pedal off with Brenner. Then he stops, runs back to the lemonade stand, and takes a big jar of coins.

LITTLE SISTER
Hey!

EXT. MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER - DAY *

Brenner and Cooper pass a movie theater showing "Indiana Jones * And The Last Crusade" and pull their bikes into a parking lot. Each stares ahead in awe. CAMERA PANS around them, REVEALS what they're looking at: ***THE ELECTRIC DREAMS ARCADE***. A BIG GRAND OPENING SIGN hangs from the roof.

INT. ARCADE - DAY

Its like going into another world. All the classic games are lined up: **PAC MAN, DONKEY KONG, CENTIPEDE, SPACE INVADERS, GALAGA, Q-BERT, PAPERBOY, DRAGON'S LAIR.** And they're all BRAND NEW. The guys enter. Cooper opens the mason jar, both * guys grab a handful of quarters and they fan out. *

Brenner waits in line for the holy grail: PAC MAN, watching * OTHERS playing and losing. He studies their moves, the game's controls, taking in every success, every failure.

Cooper plays GALAGA. On screen we see him GETTING KILLED BY * THE ALIEN/BUG INVADERS THREE TIMES REAL QUICK. He's terrible. *

It's Brenner's turn. He steps up, puts in his quarter and starts to play. Cooper steps up, watching over his shoulder. *

YOUNG COOPER
Which one's the alien, the cheese wedge guy or the rainbow blobs?

YOUNG BRENNER *
Neither. Those blobs are ghosts, and the cheese wedge is Pac Man.
(MORE)

YOUNG BRENNER (CONT'D)
He's a... I don't know what he is, but he seems like a good guy.

Cooper shakes his head, looks at the game Brenner's playing: CU of an 80's 8 Bit video screen as PACMAN RACES ACROSS IT.

YOUNG COOPER
Wow. How are you so good at this game? You've never even played it before.

YOUNG BRENNER
I don't know. There's a pattern to how they are moving.

YOUNG COOPER
A pattern?

YOUNG BRENNER
(never looking up)
Yeah, there's a pattern to everything. Like every day when you say you're going on a diet at noon, then you're eating four Milky Ways at 3 o'clock - that's your pattern!
(Cooper laughs, then punches his arm)
Whoa, don't make me lose my guy!

TRIUMPH'S SONG continues as CREDITS PLAY OVER:

-Brenner acing PACMAN, MOVING UP, LEVEL AFTER LEVEL... Brenner now breaks the HIGH SCORE ON THE MACHINE as Cooper watches in amazement (while eating a Milky Way).

- MONTAGE of Brenner playing: Centipede, Q-Bert, Galaga, Defender being played at a high level, high score after high score, crowds growing, "BNR" taking over the entire top ten scores. Cooper hands Brenner a flyer - "WORLD VIDEO GAME CHAMPIONSHIPS". Brenner looks intimidated, but Cooper nods confidently.

INT. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - NIGHT

The Super Bowl of video games. Hundreds of PEOPLE are there. NEWSCASTERS report. Cooper is massaging Brenner's fingers.

YOUNG COOPER
How you feeling, Champ? Getting loose?

YOUNG BRENNER
I don't know, man. I never won anything in my life. I'm good for our town, but these guys are the best in the world...

He trails off as he overhears someone nearby talking...

VOICE (O.C.)
Hi... This is a pretty good party...Actually, I hate parties...

Brenner looks over to the next machine to see LUDLOW MCNALLY (13, rail thin, acne, glasses. Genius, no social skills). Ludlow is playing Dragon's Lair and talking under his breath to the Princess Daphne character.

YOUNG LUDLOW
You too? That's so funny. My name's Ludlow by the way... Well nice to meet you, Princess Daphne... Really? I think you're pretty darn sexy too...

He finally notices Brenner and Cooper staring at him and is embarrassed.

YOUNG BRENNER
You're Ludlow McNally, right? Heard you're the king of Dragon's Lair.

YOUNG LUDLOW
Naa, the King will always be Elvis. Who is still alive, by the way. He teamed up with JFK, Marilyn Monroe and the frozen head of Walt Disney to create the so-called 'accident' at Three Mile Island.

YOUNG COOPER
Wow. You don't have any friends, do you?

YOUNG LUDLOW
Just my mom.

He gestures toward his MOM, who is sitting on a nearby pinball machine, shoes off, rubbing her sore feet. She waves.

YOUNG BRENNER
Well, now you have friends.

They shake hands. Ludlow turns to Cooper.

YOUNG LUDLOW
How about you? What's your best game?

YOUNG COOPER
Nothing. I stink at everything.

YOUNG BRENNER
Get out of here; you're good at other stuff, Chewie. You're good at talking people into things... You have good hair... You're a good liar...

YOUNG COOPER
Yeah, what's that gonna get me?

There's a hubub at the front door: EDDIE PLANT has arrived. He's dressed in parachute pants, a Twisted Sister T-shirt and a rat tail, and is flanked by two hot 80's looking girls in leather pants (their t-shirts identify them as the CYBER GIRLZ).

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT
What's up, geeks and goobers? They call me the Fire Blaster. Because my hands are blazing fast, and also I will blast and burn all my competitors' shit.

Eddie saunters over toward Ludlow.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT (CONT'D)
You must be the local talent. If this was a zit growing contest, I'd be in trouble.

YOUNG BRENNER
At least we didn't make up our own nicknames.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT
Who cares who came up with it? It's totally tubular!

Brenner and Eddie glare at each other. An MC steps on stage.

M.C.
Welcome, gamers, to the First Arcade World Championships. We have a representative here from the Guinness Book of World Records. As well as a representative from *NASA,* who will be videotaping tonight's event, to be included in a compilation of 1984's news events and popular culture. That video tape will be placed in an orbiter sent out into the solar system to search for proof of Extra-Terrestrial life.
(ET voice)
ET phone home!

People APPLAUD, IMPRESSED. Eddie Plant flips Brenner off. Brenner shakes his head. Ludlow, nervous, looks like he is gonna piss himself as they head to the games. Cooper cheers them on.

It's like the OLYMPICS as they all step up to play, total seriousness. There are about a dozen competitors: younger kids, weird middle-aged men, etc. We see them move the controls, put their quarters in and pound the buttons in SLO MO as the judges watch.

-Brenner plays BREAKOUT super-fast and zen-cool.

-Ludlow is in a zone playing GALAGA.

-Eddie steals a glance at his palm as he annihilates PAC MAN.

-ONSTAGE, the M.C. addresses the crowd dramatically.

M.C. (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen...
Congratulations to Eddie Plant, who is now officially the high-score holder and world champion of both Breakout and Pac Man!
(applause)
And, the world champion of Galaga and Centipede is... rookie sensation Julian Brenner!
(shocked applause)
Gentlemen, since we're tied at two games apiece, it's time for the tie-breaker--
(a beat)
Donkey Kong!!

Brenner and Eddie both smile confidently. They start walking toward the machines. Cooper runs up alongside Brenner.

YOUNG COOPER
Brenner, do you remember who Eric Heiden beat when he won all those gold medals at the Winter Olympics?

YOUNG BRENNER
No.

YOUNG COOPER
That's right you don't, cause nobody remembers who came in second! Go for the gold! Use the patterns!

-Brenner and Eddie, surrounded by a HUGE CROWD, stand side by side, playing on two DONKEY KONG MACHINES. Brenner and Eddie glare at each other as they insert their quarters.

They play furiously. The Cyber Girlz cheer on Eddie, Cooper and Ludlow cheer on Brenner. Brenner starts to pull ahead, Eddie's in deep trouble (again, occasionally sneaking a glance at his palm). But then Eddie starts mounting an improbable comeback.

YOUNG COOPER (CONT'D)
Finish him, Jules!

But Eddie is suddenly racking up the points. We seee BRENNER's POV: he's lost the pattern. The barrels seem to fall randomly.

Eddie and Brenner are each down to their last guy, playing their hearts out, until we hear... the DONKEY KONG death sound. But who died? Eddie turns to Brenner.

YOUNG EDDIE PLANT
Congratulations - on being a loser!

Brenner steps back from the machine. Stunned.

We see the look of utter disappointment and devastation on his face as he realizes he lost at the one thing he was great at. Eddie jumps around pointing at all the others.

EDDIE PLANT
YEAH!!! Fire Blaster is the WORLD CHAMP!!! THE BOY WONDER COULDN'T HANDLE THE PRESSURE!! HE CAN SUCK IT! And *YOU* CAN SUCK IT! AND YOU CAN SUCK IT!!!

Cooper and Ludlow go to console Brenner.

YOUNG COOPER
It's alright, man. You're still one of the best in the world.

A PHOTOGRAPHER steps forward.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Alright boys, get together. Glen Mazzara, People Magazine. I want to take your picture.

Eddie, Ludlow and Brenner (reluctantly) get together for a picture.

MATCH DISSOLVE to the front cover of People Magazine's June 5, 1982 cover. The caption reads: VIDEO GAME CHAMPS: READY TO TAKE THE WORLD BY STORM.

DISSOLVE TO:

"JULIAN BRENNER". A NAMETAG. CAMERA PULLS BACK. It is PRESENT DAY. The nametag belongs to the actual ADULT BRENNER, pinned to his BRIGHTLY COLORED ORANGE UNIFORM. *

Brenner has just exited an ORANGE MINI-VAN that reads NERD PATROL. He carries a clipboard and approaches a GEORGETOWN MANSION. He's miserable, depressed. He steps up to the front door and KNOCKS. A HANDSOME, YOUNGER FIT MAN, answers.

BRENNER
(like he wants to die)
Hello, I am a NERD from the Nerd Patrol here to deal with your audio/visual needs.

He sighs, he hates his life.

INT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY

Brenner installs a 70 inch 4K Sony TV to the wall of a gigantic living room. As Brenner adjusts the TV's wall mount, he glances outside, through a large picture window.

BRENNER'S POV: The handsome home owner lies on a lounge chair, beside his GORGEOUS WIFE. They drink champagne, watching their TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN splashing in their state of the art pool.

Brenner watches them, with a longing for a life he'll never know. His expression says it all: *Must be nice*.

THIRD CHILD *
Pretty sweet life, eh? *

Brenner is startled to see another kid (7) standing nearby, in a polo shirt, looking smug, drinking a milkshake. So startled, in fact, that he drops the TV, which smashes. * * *

THIRD CHILD (CONT'D) *
Way to go, nerd. *

INT. BAR, WASHINGTON DC - EVENING

Still in uniform, Brenner sits across from COOPER also 45. He is dressed in a blue blazer and open collar shirt.

BRENNER
Look, Chewie... This is what you do: *
you turn off the phone, turn off the
email, the Twitter, the ESPN, put down *
the Milky Way and just devote your *
full attention to *her*. *

COOPER
And you sure this will work on my *
wife? *

BRENNER
Yes. I mean, what do I know, I only went on two dates with her, and that was 30 years ago.

COOPER
Two dates? I thought it was one date.

BRENNER
Yeah, you're right, the second one wasn't really a "date:" we never left the house.
(Cooper looks infuriated)
I'm kidding, big man, mostly kidding. How's work?

COOPER
You know, same old. Busy as hell. How about you?

BRENNER
Well, I'm busy working the next two months for free cause I smashed Richie Rich's TV. But I can do some overtime on the side. Like, if you ever saw fit to let me wire up your place...

COOPER
You know that's complicated. I can't just use whoever I want.

BRENNER
Yeah, I get it, I'm not good enough. I'm a failure, I wear orange shorts, my wife left me for a busboy...

Brenner notices that Cooper is watching the bar TV.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry is my pathetic life boring you?

COOPER
No, I just need to see this

Brenner turns. ON TV WE SEE CHRIS MATTHEWS on MSNBC.

CHRIS MATTHEWS (ON TV)
The President's gaffe-filled summer continued today during an appearance in the White House East Room to promote his new youth reading initiative. Here's what happened...

ON TV WE SEE Cooper in the East Room, reading to a class of FIRST-GRADERS who have gathered on the rug around him. Parents, teachers, etc. stand watching excitedly.

COOPER (ON TV)
(dramatic)
...But then, Mittens jumped up on to the table, and knocked over the whole bowl of soup! Mrs. Pickles gassed - gasped, and the whole room fell silent. “This is casta...
(struggling with word)
catsa... catsatatsastrophic?...”

LITTLE GIRL
Catastrophic!

COOPER (ON TV)
(a little loud)
I got it, thanks, sweetheart!

The Little Girl looks like she’s about to cry.

ON TV, back to Chris Matthews.

CHRIS MATTHEWS
Seems like if the President’s approval ratings don’t improve, the results of the next election could be... catsatatsastrophic.

Back in the bar, Brenner is laughing.

BRENNER
You really should learn how to read.

PRESIDENT COOPER
I was on three hours sleep!!

We pull back further and see that there are A TON OF SECRET SERVICE AGENTS there.

EXT. BAR, WASHINGTON DC - LATER - NIGHT`

Brenner and the President walk out together. The Secret Service keep people back as they scream things at him.

PEOPLE	PRESIDENT COOPER
Your economics are hurting poor people... The blood of innocent children is on your hands... I can’t afford to go to college because of you... You’re ruining the country...	Nice to see you... Thanks... Looking good... Hi, how are you?... Doing my best... Let’s work together...

BRENNER
(quietly)
You know they're saying bad things, right? Your responses are making no sense.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Bobbing and weaving...

DAN, a creepy looking older guy with strange, piercing blue eyes, appears and makes a bee-line for them.

DAN
I need a moment of your time, Mr. President. It is a matter of utmost importance! The fate of the world hangs in the balance!

Dan is instantly pulled back - hard - by the Secret Service.

BRENNER
You got a tough life, dude.

The reach the front. Cooper's MOTORCADE is there. And the valet pulls up Brenner's neon orange nerd van, hands him the keys.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
...but at least you've got a life.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Look, Brenner, you were meant for something more than *this*. You're the smartest guy I know. But when things get tough, you gotta dig deep and get it done, whether it's college or your marriage or... Donkey Kong.

That last one seems to sting Brenner a little.

BRENNER
That hurt, man. That's catastastrophic that you said that.

Cooper smiles, gets into his limo. Brenner looks at the nerd van, sighs: he can't believe this is his life. CAMERA PANS UP TO THE SKY. There are a few STARS. We focus on one of them. Suddenly, it MOVES and RACES ACROSS THE SKY.

CAMERA PANS UP TO THE SKY. There are a few STARS. We focus on one of them. Suddenly, it MOVES and RACES ACROSS THE SKY.

EXT. TAJ MAHAL - NIGHT

AN INDIAN TEENAGER is with a TEEN GIRL outside the Taj Mahal. He seems nervous. He takes his iPhone out pushes some buttons on the phone, and a tinny INDIAN VERSION of *Spandau Ballet's* "TRUE" begins to play. He props it up to record himself.

He stands facing the Teen Girl, speaks some Hindi, then drops to one knee. The Indian Girl can't believe this is happening!

(NOTE: REST OF SCENE TAKES PLACE IN ONE LONG TAKE ON AN IPHONE CAMERA)

Behind them, we see... something. Flashing lights, something bright whizzing through frame too fast to see. The teens are oblivious. The Boy speaks some more heartfelt Hindi, getting emotional, then pulls a ring box out of his pocket.

The Girl, finally noticing what's going on off-camera, starts screaming. The Boy thinks she's screaming about the ring box and tries to soothe her, but then he sees what's going on and starts screaming, too. He abandons the Girl and runs for the camera. He grabs it, but never gets a clear shot of what's going on, just quick low-rez images of lights, smoke, himself and - is that a hole in the Taj Mahal?

A bright light grows to fill the whole screen, the boy's screams seem to fade off into the distance, then black. Silence.

INT. BRENNER'S SHITTY APARTMENT - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

The TV is on.

BBC ANCHOR
No country or terrorist organization has claimed responsibility. The government is searching for clues in hopes of finding out who blew a massive hole in the Taj Mahal.

As Brenner is finishing his breakfast, he hears an e-mail BEEP on his computer. He stands, walks to the computer, still eating cereal. CLOSE ON COMPUTER: the FROM BOX says: **LUDLOW.**

BRENNER
Ludlow? God, I haven't heard from him in years.

Curious, he opens it. He sees a VIDEO ATTACHMENT. The text reads: LOOK AT THIS, THEN CALL ME ASAP. Brenner frowns, clicks on it. It begins to slowly load.

Brenner looks at his watch. He's late. He exits, as the file continues to LOAD.

EXT. GEORGETOWN HOUSE - DAY

A door opens. A 13 YEAR OLD KID stands there.

MATTY
Are you the Nerd?

BRENNER
No, I just like to wear this because I think I look awesome.
(the kid just stares at him)
Yeah, I'm the Nerd.

MATTY
Isn't that kind of demeaning?

BRENNER
Only if someone brings it up.

MATTY
I won't bring it up then.

BRENNER *
Lovin' it. *

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUING

Matty leads Brenner in. He looks around. It's a warm house.

BRENNER
So what am I installing?

MATTY
A new 85 inch SONY 4k 3D TV. Playstation 4. 7.1 Surround sound speakers. Really, * if you guys sell it, we bought it.

BRENNER
Wow, is it your birthday?

MATTY
My parents are getting a divorce.

BRENNER
Wow, that's like ten birthdays.

MATTY
My Dad cheated on my Mom with his 18 year old Filipino pilates instructor. Her name * is Sinnamon with an S. I shit you not; that is her name. I mean I should be dating an 18 year old pilates instructor not him.

BRENNER
She'd kill you, dude, but I get your larger point.

MATTY
Anyway my Mom kinda hates him right now for being a major d-bag asswipe, her words, not mine. She felt bad that I'm going through this so she sold a bunch of his favorite stuff on Ebay to buy me all this-

VIOLET (O.S.)
Okay, Matty, we don't need to tell the nice installer man our whole life.

Brenner turns and sees VIOLET CAMERON (LATE 30's) beautiful, smart, tough. Brenner sees her and then involuntarily utters:

BRENNER
Whoa.

VIOLET
I'm sorry, whoa what?

BRENNER
(embarrassed now)
...No, just you...whoa.

VIOLET
Me, whoa? I don't know what that means.

BRENNER
...Yeah. Um, it's just when your son told me that your husband left you for a younger woman I kinda thought maybe you were one of those hot-when-we-met-in high-school, but then got-older-let-herself-go and now has like neck fuzz and a pot belly with cottage-cheese thighs. But that's clearly not what you look like. So more like whoa, I should have probably brushed my teeth before I left the house, or crappy apartment, if we're getting real here. *

MATTY
Do you have Tourettes?

BRENNER
Surprisingly no. Wish I did right now.

Violet laughs. There is definitely a connection. Matty notices.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Okay, I guess I should start setting all this stuff up.

Violet and Matty walk out. She turns and catches Brenner looking and he pretends he was looking at her light fixtures instead. She smiles to herself. *

INT. VIOLET AND MATTY'S HOUSE - LATER - DAY

Brenner is setting up the video game system. Matty is hanging out, watching him. Brenner notices him.

MATTY *
So you a gamer? *

BRENNER
Uh, I was when I was your age. *

MATTY
Why'd you stop?

BRENNER *
Wasn't getting me anywhere. *

MATTY *
Were you any good? *

BRENNER *
I was alright at some of the *
classic games. *

MATTY
Classics? You mean like "Halo"?

BRENNER
No, the *real* classics: Pac-Man,
Asteroids, Space Invaders. Games you *
played at an arcade. You'd go with your *
friends, there was great music playing,
cute girls everywhere...

MATTY
I like games where you shoot people, and *
their guts go flying everywhere, limbs
get blown off, occasionally you have to
rip someone's spine out and then use to
it to beat someone else to death. It's
probably genetic.

BRENNER
Why? Your mom's a serial killer?

MATTY
No, she makes weapons for the military. *

VIOLET (O.S.)
(overhears this)
Matty, what are you saying?...

MATTY
Nothing, Mom. Sorry I mean she works
in research at the mall.
(then mouths to Brenner)
No she doesn't.

BRENNER
(mouths back)
Really? *

MATTY
(whispers)
She says she's gonna' make a Whore Destroyer Weapon to take out Sinnamon.

BRENNER
(laughs, whispers)
Your Mom is pretty cool.

MATTY
Damn straight. You should ask her out.

VIOLET
(walking in)
What are you guys talking about?

MATTY/BRENNER
Video games.

Violet smiles. Then she gets a text, her face falls.

EXT. GUAM - NIGHT

An old house with a front porch on the edge of a dirt road. An OLD MAN sits in a rocking chair, having a beer.

Then we hear it: BEEP BOP. BEEP BOP BOOP.

The old man looks around. BEEP BOP. BEEP BOP BOO. It's like the JAWS theme. It's getting LOUDER. And CLOSER.

Behind the house, in the sky, we see BRIGHT COLORED LIGHTS loop down from the stars. TWO BY TWO. In a TIGHT FORMATION. The lights fly down, loop around and then TURN.

Two by two the lights FLY DOWN THE DIRT ROAD, PAST THE HOUSE.

The FORCE of the lights BLOW THE OLD MAN OFF IN HIS ROCKING CHAIR. He topples to the floor. He looks up, staring after the crafts in disbelief.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

The lights ZOOM PAST A SIGN THAT READS: GUAM MILITARY BASE. 12 MILES. *

EXT. GUAM MILITARY BASE - NIGHT *

Establishing shot of the base. *

INT. GUAM MILITARY BASE - NIGHT *

Bustling, filled with military personnel. CAMERA PANS to A HANDSOME SOLDIER, staring intently at a video monitor. AN ARRAY OF COLORFUL SHAPES appear on the monitor, MOVING TOWARD the center of the screen. The HANDSOME SOLDIER'S face falls, he SHOUTS to someone OFF CAMERA. *

HANDSOME SOLDIER *
Colonel Devereux! You need to see this-- *

COLONEL DEVEREUX, a tough, middle aged hatchet of a man with a crewcut, walks up, stares over the soldier's shoulder. His eyes widen in shock. *

COLONEL DEVEREUX *
We're being attacked. *

INT. VIOLET'S BEDROOM - NIGHT *

Brenner knocks on the door and peaks his head in.

BRENNER
Mrs. Cameron? Just wanted to let you know I'm all finished and I need you to sign the work order... Feels weird calling you Mrs. because you're probably way younger than me, but contractually I have to.

He doesn't see anyone, but hears a faint crying.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Okay.

Her voice echoes from the closet.

BRENNER
Mrs. Cameron, are you in the closet?

VIOLET (FROM THE CLOSET)
...Yes.

BRENNER
Not judging, but what are you doing in there?

VIOLET (FROM THE CLOSET)
Um, mostly crying. A little drinking. Probably equally crying and drinking.

BRENNER
Okay. I'm sorry. ...but why are you doing that in there?

VIOLET
I don't want Matty to see me.

We then hear more sobbing sounds. Brenner isn't sure if he should leave or not. He sighs, and heads towards the closet.

BRENNER
I'm gonna' open the closet now. I'm coming in.

VIOLET
(still crying)
Okay.

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUING

He opens the door and sees her feet. He climbs in. Violet is sitting behind the clothes. Mascara drips down her cheeks.

BRENNER
Are you alright?

VIOLET
I'm on the floor of my closet, sobbing, drinking chardonnay out of a sippy cup. *Does it look like I'm alright?*

BRENNER
Point taken. Do you... want to talk about it?

VIOLET
No, yes, *I don't know.*

She reaches for him and cries on his shoulder. He awkwardly pats her on the back. *

INT. GUAM AIRBASE - COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT *

Chaos. SERVICEMEN RUN OUT to man their posts. They hear the noise. BEEP BOP. BEEP BOP BOOP. That familiar arcade game sound. FIGHTER PILOTS run down the tarmac towards their jets. EXPLOSIONS coupled with VIDEO GAME SOUNDS FILL THE AIR. ONE PILOT stops before getting in his plane, looks up at the air. BLURRY COLORFUL IMAGES are REFLECTED IN HIS HELMET. *

FIGHTER PILOT *
What the hell are those things? *

INT. GUAM COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT *

LIGHTS FLICKER ON AND OFF in the command center. EXPLOSIONS ROCK the interior. A WALL IS BLOWN AWAY, sending people flying to the ground. The explosion is UNLIKE ANYTHING we've ever seen. The wall PIXELATES INTO A HUNDRED COLORFUL BLOCKS, leaving a HUGE OPENING, FILLED WITH SMOKY COLORFUL LIGHT. *

The HANDSOME SOLDIER get to his feet, runs outside. *

EXT. GUAM COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT *

The soldier STEPS OUTSIDE, looks up to the sky. He is STUNNED by what he sees. He is suddenly BATHED IN LIGHT. He raises his PISTOL and begins firing upward. *

Suddenly the pistol LEAVES HIS HAND and is LIFTED UPWARD, INTO THE LIGHT. This is followed by the soldier, whose body is LIFTED INTO THE AIR... DISAPPEARING INTO THE LIGHT...

INT. WHITE HOUSE DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

President Cooper is eating dinner with the FIRST LADY.

PRESIDENT COOPER
So Saturday, I was supposed to have dinner with the King of Saudi Arabia to discuss a possible free trade agreement, but I decided to cancel.

FIRST LADY
You did?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Well, I made a reservation at this new place on Michigan Avenue, where you go and actually make a cake. You mix in the flour and eggs and whatever, then they bake it for you, but you get to frost it- vanilla, chocolate, butterscotch - then you can make a design with sprinkles and sparkles if you want. So I thought it could be fun if you and I-

FIRST LADY
Sarah’s coming over Saturday. We’re gonna see a movie.

PRESIDENT COOPER
A movie. Do you think possibly you could go to the movies with Sarah on Sunday?

FIRST LADY
She already got a babysitter.

PRESIDENT COOPER
I see. Do you think maybe she could cancel the babysitter?

FIRST LADY
I could ask.

PRESIDENT COOPER
You could ask? Wow!

An AIDE runs in.

AIDE
Mr. President, you need to see this.

He hands Cooper a piece of paper. The President's face goes white.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Get the Joint Chiefs and everyone down here right now!
(the Aide nods)
Who is attacking us?!

INT. VIOLET'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Violet & Brenner sit in her closet now sharing the bottle.

VIOLET
I thought it was just a fling, a mid-life fling-thing, but now according to the text I got 20 minutes ago he's *marrying* her. My son's stepmom is gonna be named *Sinnamon*.
(makes a disgusted face)
This just isn't where I thought I'd be at this point in my life.

BRENNER
I hear that.

They toast.

VIOLET
We were high school sweethearts. The perfect couple. He proposed in a waterfall. An effin waterfall. We had our problems, sure. But now I'm almost 40 and getting a divorce and he's marrying an 18 year old named after a spice... and it's not even spelled correctly.

BRENNER
I think you need to take a deep breath... and then go find him and set him on fire.

VIOLET
(laugh/cries)
Yes, I mean no. That would be fun though.

She stops crying. He wipes her tears away, they exchange a smile.

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

President Cooper sits in the sit room with the JOINT CHIEFS.

PRESIDENT COOPER
So whoever did this just took out a dozen ships, and we got none of theirs? Is that correct?

HEAD OF THE JOINT CHIEFS
That's what it looks like, sir. Our weapons just seemed to... bounce off them.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Casualties?

HEAD OF THE JOINT CHIEFS
All troops are accounted for, except for one fighter pilot, a Sgt. Dylan Cohan. He's missing.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Alright, let's see this footage.

The lights dim, and everyone turns to the GIANT FLAT SCREENS IN THE SIT ROOM. We don't see what they see, but we see their stunned reactions.

JOINT CHIEF
What are those things?

INT. VIOLET'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Brenner smiles at Violet.

BRENNER
You know... Maybe this is really all for the best.

VIOLET
What do you mean?

BRENNER
I mean... You got the worst part over with. You already married the wrong guy...

VIOLET
True.

BRENNER
Maybe it just means you're gonna' meet the right guy.

VIOLET
Yeah.

Brenner looks at her, waits a beat, then LEANS IN FOR THE KISS. She quickly backs away.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Whoa... Are you trying to kiss me?

BRENNER
No.

VIOLET
You're trying to kiss me in my closet?

She gets up, exits the closet. Brenner follows, walking with her into the kitchen.

BRENNER
I thought we were having a moment.

VIOLET
We were, but- Look you seem like a nice man. And this has been fun. But I just met you. And no offense, but I don't think the right guy for me is a 45 year old nerd who installs flatscreens for a living.

BRENNER
44. And wow, I didn't peg you as the snobby type.

VIOLET
Snob? Me? No, I'm not a snob!

Violet makes two cups of Nespresso coffee, gives one to Brenner.

BRENNER
Okay, so if I was a billionaire and we were in the Mediterranean on my gigantic yacht and we had some wine and a nice moment and I went to kiss you, would you?

Busted. Before she can answer Brenner's phone rings. He looks at it. It says "PRESIDENT CHEWIE" on the caller ID.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Snobby. I have to take this!
(answers the phone)
Homeboy. What's up? *

(INTERCUT BETWEEN PRESIDENT COOPER and BRENNER)

PRESIDENT COOPER
Can you get to the White House right now? There's something I need to get your opinion on. *

BRENNER
I'll be right there.

He hangs up and turns to Violet.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
While I'd love to stay and hear you lie about not wanting to make out with the billionaire, I have to go. Also I'm an amazing kisser. You had a chance to find out and you just lost it.

As he exits the kitchen, HER PHONE NOW RINGS.

VIOLET
Hello? *

EXT. GEORGETOWN STREET - NIGHT

Brenner is speeding along in his van, but has to stop for a red light. A car skids to a stop beside him. It's Violet. Brenner rolls down his window, calls to her.

BRENNER
Too late, sweetheart. You had your shot * and you blew it. *

VIOLET
I'm not following you.

BRENNER
I know; you're stalking me. It's * over. Deal with it.

The light changes, and he peels out. 30, 40, 50 mph. Brenner looks in his rear-view and sees Violet is right on his tail.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Wow, she went from zero to psycho in 6.7 seconds...

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - NIGHT

We see Brenner's van racing through the mostly empty streets toward the White House. Violet's car is right behind. Then both put their blinkers on at the same time to head into...

EXT. WHITE HOUSE GATES - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Brenner pulls up to the guard shack and hands the GUARD his ID. He speaks softly and quickly.

BRENNER
There's a woman with mental problems right behind me. You might need to call for back-up or---

Violet's car pulls up and the GUARD waves her through.

GUARD
Go right on in, Lt. Colonel Cameron!

This leaves Brenner flummoxed.

INT. HALLWAY, WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

Brenner and Violet walk quickly down a hallway in the West Wing. They notice what a HOTBED OF ACTIVITY THE WHITE HOUSE IS. Everyone is WORRIED, PANICKED. The PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANT (Jennifer) sees them approaching.

ASSISTANT
Lieutenant Colonel Cameron, you can go right into the Situation Room.

Violet turns to Brenner, cocky.

VIOLET
So, yeah, they need me in the Situation Room. Have fun doing whatever you--

ASSISTANT
Mr. Brenner, the President is waiting for you in the Oval Office.

Violet is stunned. Brenner's turn to be cocky.

BRENNER
Somebody's more important...

Brenner walks into the Oval Office.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cooper leans against his desk, worried.

PRESIDENT COOPER
You couldn't have at least changed?

BRENNER
You told me to come right over! Chewie, what's going on? It's crazy out there.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Our military base in Guam was attacked tonight. *

BRENNER
That's not good. Attacked by who? *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Not sure. That's why I asked you here. *

Brenner, intrigued, goes to the desk. Cooper hits play. He SEES GRAINY, SHAKY FOOTAGE OF THE GUAM ATTACK. THE SHIPS AND THE BUGS. The distinctive sound. Brenner watches. AMAZED. *

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
Is that sound familiar to you?

BRENNER
It does ring a bell... Hold it!
Stop here!
(the footage freezes)
Can you go in tighter?

The footage zooms in a little. A strange ship comes into focus.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
That's impossible, that's...
(Can't believe it)
Galaga. That's a Galaga ship.

PRESIDENT COOPER
That's what I thought too. I was hoping you would contradict me.

BRENNER
I can't believe this...

PRESIDENT COOPER
Nobody's gonna believe it, that's the problem. America already thinks I'm a buffoon; imagine when I have to announce this...

The door opens, and the First Lady walks in holding two cups of coffee.

FIRST LADY
Will, everybody's here. They're ready for you.
(notices Brenner)
Jules! How are you?

She gives Brenner a hug. Brenner gives Cooper a smug smile over her shoulder. Cooper shakes his head.

PRESIDENT COOPER
I have to go. Watch it again. See if you can find anything that might tell us who's responsible for this.

FIRST LADY
Will?

Cooper turns, ready for the advice of a lifetime.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes, hon?

FIRST LADY
Sarah said she can't cancel the babysitter.

PRESIDENT COOPER
(baffled)
Okay. I'm gonna go talk to the Joint Chiefs now.

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The President enters. The Joint Chiefs are there, as are the heads of the CIA, FBI and HOMELAND SECURITY. The most intimidating by far is five-star GENERAL PORTER. Violet is one of a group seated in chairs against the wall, taking notes. The PRESS SECRETARY walks beside Cooper as he makes his way to the head of the table.

PRESS SECRETARY
Mr. President, we told the press that it was an advanced weapons test that misfired. So there's no mass panic yet.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Good, then let's solve this thing before there is.

As Cooper sits, it seems like everyone starts talking at once.

NAVY SECRETARY
Mr. President, clearly Pakistan's drone technology has far surpassed ours--

CIA CHIEF
There's no way we could have missed that. This has Moscow's fingerprints all over it--

GENERAL PORTER
Nonsense! I suspect a North Korean black ops sideshow.

PRESIDENT COOPER
(cutting them off)
We were attacked by Galaga.

Suddenly, there's intimidated silence for a beat. Violet stops taking notes. Then...

GENERAL PORTER
Well then let's blow Galaga to hell. Who's Galaga?

JUNIOR AIDE
Um, it's an old-timey video game 80s kinda folks like my dad used to play.

PRESIDENT COOPER
And tell everybody what happens in this video game, Jared.

As the Junior Aide fumbles through an answer, the SECRETARY OF THE NAVY is talking a little too loud to the President's Assistant.

JUNIOR AIDE
Well, it's like, alien ships swarm in a symmetrical manner and rain light bombs on, like, your guy--

NAVY SECRETARY
Just turkey, plain turkey... Do they have chipotle mayo?... Is it fat free? Can I get it on the side then?

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
Hold on a second: Jim, are *you really ordering a sandwich in the middle of a national security meeting?*

NAVY SECRETARY
I'm sorry, Mr. President. Jennifer asked what we wanted. I figured we were gonna' be here for awhile--

PRESIDENT COOPER
(to his Assistant)
Just get us a bunch of turkey sandwiches, okay?!
(sees Navy Sec's pleading)
...with chipotle mayo...
(more pleading face)
...on the side.
(sighs, then to CIA Chief)
So someone is attacking us by means of Galaga ships. The question is who?

INT. OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

Brenner watches the tape of the attack again. Then he sees something and pauses the footage. He studies it closely.

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

VIOLET
Mr. President, there's no nation on earth that has that kind of military technology--

GENERAL PORTER
Except North Korea!

NAVY SECRETARY
Forget North Korea! I think we're looking at a cutting edge multinational enterprise - an NGO, a think tank, even a corporation. We're thinking North Korea when we should be thinking Google.

GENERAL PORTER
So we should blow up Google!

BRENNER (O.S.)
It ain't Google

Everyone turns and looks at BRENNER standing there in his bright orange shorts. The door to the oval office open.

GENERAL PORTER
Who is this person?!

NAVY SECRETARY
(hopeful)
The sandwich guy?

PRESIDENT COOPER
This is... my... old arcade game technical consulting advisor person.

BRENNER
I'm Julian Brenner. I'm the President's best friend.

GENERAL PORTER
Your best friend? I'm glad he's so well qualified.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Mr. Brenner is the smartest man I know. He works... in the tech sector, and he attended MIT.

NAVY SECRETARY
"Attended?" That's a nice way of saying you didn't graduate, right?

BRENNER
Yeah, but I had a good reason: the classes got really hard.

PRESIDENT COOPER
More to the current point, Mr. Brenner was the National Galaga Champion.

Cooper holds up the old People Magazine cover from 1982.

BRENNER
World.

PRESIDENT COOPER
World champion. He knows everything there is to know about this game.
(to Brenner)
So what did you and your orange shorts come in here to say?

BRENNER
The Galaga that attacked us basically doesn't exist anymore.

JUNIOR AIDE
You can download Galaga on your phone.

They all look at Brenner. He is in the Lion's Den now.

BRENNER
Not this version of Galaga, prom king. The Galaga that we know now, that you can download off the internet, came out in 1986.
(points at the screen)
But *this* is from the original 1982 arcade version that was only available in the U.S. It was redesigned because of glitches in the original code. You can tell by the way the giant space bugs swoop in.

VIOLET
(watching)
Kind of ziggy-zaggy.

BRENNER
(mocking)
Whoa, "ziggy zaggy," is that the military term?
(Violet glares)
Anyways, this original version was corrected before the internet. So to find it online - ain't gonna happen.

They all ponder this. Not knowing what this means.

VIOLET
So someone designed these 'space bugs' after an old out of print version of a video game from 30 years ago that no one today would know? But how? Why?

BRENNER
You got me, Princess. Maybe they're getting ziggy-zaggy on us.

She fumes. He mouths "Hi" to her.

VIOLET
(turns to Cooper)
Mr. President, I'm sure that information is going to be very helpful, but going forward, I think we're going to be discussing topics well above Mr. Brenner's non-existent security clearance, so unless we need to reprogram the remote, perhaps it is time for him to depart?
(to Brenner)
No offense, Nerd Patrol.

She then mouthes "Hi" at him.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Uh, she's right. Thanks for coming down, Brenner. I appreciate your help.

Brenner nods and salutes the various people as he backs out.

BRENNER
Mr. Preseident, Generals, Admirals, other guys in suits, Mr. Efron, Private Benjamin, honored to be of service.

He walks out, then pokes his head back in.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Hey, the sandwich guy is waiting out here.
(the Navy Secretary stands, excited)
Just kidding, homie.

The Navy Secretary is crestfallen. Brenner salutes once more and leaves.

INT. BRENNER'S VAN - NIGHT

Brenner drives, feeling stupid. He pulls out of the White House, when a face appears from the back of the van. It's LUDLOW MCNALLY (40's). Looking as odd as he did when he was a kid. He has a receding hairline, but with long hair in the back, glasses, and wears an old faded "Defender" T-shirt.

LUDLOW
Brenner.

Brenner screams and gives Ludlow a backhand punch in the face. Ludlow falls back, but then tumbles forward as Brenner slams on the brakes, almost driving off the road. Brenner grabs Ludlow by his shirt, then recognizes him...

BRENNER
Ludlow??

LUDLOW
Yes! Why did you hit me?!

BRENNER
You scared me! I thought I was getting kidnapped! How did you get in my van?

LUDLOW
(rubbing his nose)
It was unlocked.

BRENNER
Yeah. I figured it would be safe *in the White House parking lot.*

LUDLOW
Didn't you get my email?

BRENNER
Well, yes, but I didn't have 14 hours to download it! *

LUDLOW
You have to come with me.

Brenner then sees Ludlow is holding a cloth and a jar of something in his hand.

BRENNER
And what's that in your hand?!

LUDLOW
(caught, sheepish)
Nothing.

BRENNER
Is that chloroform? Were you gonna knock me out? *

LUDLOW
Only as a last resort! Look, Brenner, this is important, like the world literally hanging-in-the-balance important. Seriously. Otherwise I'd respect your space. It's about what happened tonight in Guam. *

INT. LUDLOW'S APARTMENT - LATER - NIGHT

Brenner & Ludlow enter. It's a CONSPIRACY THEORIST'S PARADISE. There are a TON of OLD computers. A TV with the RABBIT EARS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF VARIOUS CONSPIRACY THINGS: JFK, MOON LANDING, BIGFOOT, AREA 51. AS WELL AS A **CREEPY NUMBER OF POSTERS/PICTURES OF THE DRAGON'S LAIR VID GAME HOTTIE PRINCESS DAPHNE.** *

BRENNER
By the way, if she was real she'd be scared to be in this apartment right now.

LUDLOW
Uh, I think if she was real, it would play out a little differently...

Brenner spots a thick spiral notebook with a drawing of Princess Daphne and Ludlow on their wedding day on the cover; it's titled "IF SHE WAS REAL..." It's a homemade flipbook depicting her as a bride and kissing Ludlow. As flip-book ludlow begins removing his shirt, Brenner puts the book down.

BRENNER
So what's so important that you were ready to poison me into uncosciousness?

LUDLOW
Okay, so did you hear about what happened at the Taj Mahal?

BRENNER
Yeah, part of it collapsed.

LUDLOW
That's what they want you to think! But a tourist who was there has been forwarding this footage around. I hacked into his mail server.

He shows him the footage the Kid shot of the Taj Mahal attack. Brenner leans in.

BRENNER
Lot of flashing lights...

LUDLOW
You know where they found the missing bricks?

BRENNER
Where?

LUDLOW
They didn't! The bricks disappeared. Just like in--

BRENNER
Breakout. Another video game. Lud, what the hell is going on?

LUDLOW
Okay, I know I'm a conspiracy freak. And I know I did a lot of drugs back in the 80's, also the 90's and the early 00's, But Brenner, sometimes the conspiracies are real. Remember when we were kids and were in the Video Game Championship?
(Brenner nods)
Remember how there was someone from NASA there? And they put a tape of the event and all the games we played in that orbiter that they shot out into the universe looking for Extra Terrestrial life?

BRENNER
(ET voice)
ET phone home.

LUDLOW
Good memory. Well, I think that some Extra Terrestrial life found that orbiter and sent real versions of what they saw to attack us.

BRENNER
How does Bigfoot fit into this?

LUDLOW
Brenner, I spent the day hacking into government satellites, looking for messages from the Aliens to prove my theory. But I did come up blank. So I decided to take a break and watch the tape of a rerun of ONE TREE HILL that I recorded tonight on my VCR. I'm bingewatching to catch up.

Ludlow points to an 80's TV, with vintage VCR and an ANTENNA.

BRENNER
And you don't have cable because...?

LUDLOW
Because the government spies on you through your cable boxes, Brenner! That's been proven!

BRENNER
Oh yeah, that's right, I forgot. Surprised that didn't make "60 Minutes".

LUDLOW
Anyway, I poured myself a bowl of sugar free Frosted Flakes and sat down to watch Sophia Bush and her sassy One Tree Hill friends' sexy shenanigans. But regardless of what my TV Guide says...
(holds up TV Guide)
(MORE)

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
One Tree Hill was not what was broadcast tonight over that UHF signal.

BRENNER
So what was?

LUDLOW
<u>This</u>.

Ludlow holds up a VHS tape. *

CLOSE ON HIS HAND AS HE POPS IT INTO THE VCR *

ON SCREEN we see PRESIDENT REAGAN in the hull of a spaceship. * It is taped on a grainy overdubbed VHS tape. The tape breaks up, glitches.

PRESIDENT REAGAN
Inhabit- of Earth. We are a r- from the Planet (STATIC) ...We came to you in these familiar Earth forms to tell you we received your vessel and in it your * hostile challenge- *

On TV, Reagan now morphs into 80's era Michael Jackson.

80'S ERA MICHAEL JACKSON
(STATIC STATIC) we have now come (STATIC) (MORE STATIC) to destroy you. Compete (STATIC) ...Winner take all battles. Gather * your bravest warriors to face our (STATIC) * bravest warriors (MORE STATIC)- *

On the tape: Michael Jackson now CHANGES into MR. T.

MR. T
Winner takes the loser's planet (STATIC) * shall go your planet. You have already lost (STATIC) the first two battles. And * for our victories, we (STATIC) have taken two trophies.

ON TV, CAMERA PANS TO A CELL where the INDIAN TEENAGER and * the HANDSOME AIR FORCE PILOT are being held CAPTIVE. *

MR. T (CONT'D)
Out of respect (STATIC) for your ways (STATIC) we will follow the rules of the battles you showed us in your craft. (STATIC) Like those battles... you will get... *three lives*.(STATIC) * You have one life left, losing one * more (STATIC) will lead to total * (STATIC) destruction of your planet. * The next battle (STATIC) is in two days. Location and time (STATIC)... * will be sent to you via this signal.

The message ends. Ludlow HITS STOP. Pull back to REVEAL we're in...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Brenner, Cooper and Ludlow were watching this on a flatscreen.

PRESIDENT COOPER
What do they mean three lives?

LUDLOW
Like the old games, you know: one quarte, three lives. Then it's game over, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Lud... You gave me my first Playboy when we were 14. I think you can call me Chewie.

LUDLOW
(smiling)
Yes, sir, Mr. President Chewie.

BRENNER
These moron aliens think the video game footage that NASA shot into space was a declaration of war.

LUDLOW
--And we've already lost the first two battles! If we lose one more, they will completely destroy our planet.

PRESIDENT COOPER
So where do Mr. T and Michael Jackson fit in?

LUDLOW
The aliens must be shapeshifters! In that orbiter NASA also included movies, music and other current events of 1984, to tell other civilizations about us.

PRESIDENT COOPER
So what other games were in the orbiter again? What are we looking at having to fight here?

BRENNER
If I'm remembering right, there were at least a dozen games played that night, and I'm guessing they were all on the orbiter.
(MORE)

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Breakout, Galaga, Asteroids, Pac Man, Dig-Dug, Donkey Kong--

LUDLOW
Donkey Kong. Not your finest hour, Jules.

BRENNER
Shut up, Lud, or I'll have him pass a law banning eating Hot Pockets in your underwear.

LUDLOW
Unconstitutional!

PRESIDENT COOPER
Both of you fools shut up! I gotta think!

LUDLOW
Sorry, your excellency. What are you thinking about?

PRESIDENT COOPER
How to play videogames against super-advanced aliens.

BRENNER
Not just play. Win.

PRESIDENT COOPER
We need weapons. Weird space weapons. So there's only one place to go. Area--

LUDLOW
--51?! Area 51?!

PRESIDENT COOPER
No, we--

LUDLOW
That's where you keep everything, isn't it? The flying saucers, the lost ark, the Robot George Washington?

PRESIDENT COOPER
There's no such thing as Area 51. It's just an empty lot. A decoy.

LUDLOW
Oh. So where are you going?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Area <u>52</u>.

LUDLOW
Whoa.... Can we come?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Sorry, but that's not possible.

LUDLOW
I'll tell everyone that Brenner took your SATs for you because you were still drunk from the night before.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Brenner, Ludlow and Cooper sit in the back.

PRESIDENT COOPER
You guys gotta be cool in there.

BRENNER
Yeah, Ludlow, handle your high.

EXT. CAR WASH - CONTINUOUS

The limo pulls up at a car wash. Cooper lowers the window, and the shabby-looking ATTENDANT gives a subtle salute.

ATTENDANT
Morning, Mr. President. The usual?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes, sargeant. Extra soapy.

The limo pulls into the car wash.

INT. LIMOUSINE - CONTINUOUS

The limo is getting spritzed and soaped up.

BRENNER
Why are we getting a car wash right now?

LUDLOW
Yeah, let's get there already!

PRESIDENT COOPER
You guys can't tell a soul about this...

The limo begins descending down a hidden chute.

BRENNER/LUDLOW
Whooooooaaaaaaaaa....

INT. AREA 52 - DAY *

The limo descends into a not terribly massive UNDERGROUND BASE. As they get out of the car, Violet, in a lab coat, comes over. *

VIOLET
Morning, Mr. President-- *
(sees Brenner & Ludlow) *
Oy. What the-- with all due *
respect, Mr. President, what's he *
doing here? *

LUDLOW *
I'm Ludlow McNally! President *
Chewie's my friend! This is *
awesome! You smell nice! *

VIOLET *
Thanks. But I was talking about *
Johnny Surround Sound over there. *

PRESIDENT COOPER *
Lt. Colonel, unfortunately they're *
with me. *

BRENNER *
You know I wish I never went into *
that closet with you. Also, I *
deeply regret trying to kiss you. *

Cooper and Ludlow turn and look at Violet and Brenner. *

VIOLET *
Moving on. Right this way. Our *
team's been working all night based *
on your new theory, and we have a *
few things to show you. *

Violet leads them toward a darkened alcove. *

VIOLET (CONT'D)
There's only a handful of people in
the world that have seen what you are
about to see. *

Brenner turns to Cooper. *

BRENNER
I can't believe you haven't shown
me this place until now.

PRESIDENT COOPER
It's called "top" secret, Brenner, not
"tell-your-best-friend-so-he-can-blab-to- *
his-mailman" secret. *

VIOLET
In June 1949, an elite Air Force recovery unit was summoned to a farm outside Roswell, New Mexico. This is what they found:

Violet dramatically flicks on a light, revealing Matty sitting in a chair playing a handheld video games.

LUDLOW
They found a little boy?

VIOLET
Crap, I flicked the wrong switch.
(to Cooper)
So sorry, sir, but the babysitter didn't show up this morning.

MATTY
Hey, Brenner!

BRENNER
Hey, Matty. Hate to ask, but can we see your security clearance?

MATTY
What's a security clearance?

Violet looks embarassed.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Whatever. Just show these guys what they found at Roswell.

Violet flicks on another light. WE SEE The FLYING SAUCER from Roswell. It's stunning, cool. They all marvel at it.

VIOLET
And also, these fellas...

Violet flicks another light, illuminating TWO ALIEN BODIES IN a GLASS CASE. They resemble our classic idea of what aliens look like.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Pretty cool, eh?

BRENNER
Gettin' frea-kay...

LUDLOW
(tears in his eyes)
Best day of my life...

Matty laughs at him, then walks over to the saucer.

MATTY
Check this out...

Matty hits a button and the COCKPIT OPENS. Ludlow, like a kid in a candy store, goes inside. THERE ARE THREE SEATS IN THE COCKPIT. Ludlow, confused raises his hand.

LUDLOW
I have a question. Can we ask questions?

VIOLET
Is that your question?

LUDLOW
No. Yes. Um, where's the third body?

VIOLET
I'm sorry?

LUDLOW
Well there are three seats in the cockpit and only two bodies in that case. So... What happened to the third one?

VIOLET
Only two bodies were found - although there were three helmets, strangely enough. We think that the occupant of the third seat was vaporized in the explosion. Or maybe they just sent an extra helmet, you know in case one got broken, or dirty.

BRENNER
Yeah, I do that all the time on trips, bring an extra helmet, in case the first helmet gets dirty - oooo boy.

Violet gives Brenner a sneer. Ludlow walks into the ship, excitedly geeking out.

VIOLET
As you can imagine the technology in these crafts is far ahead of our own. We've been trying to reverse engineer the tech in these ships to use against the aliens, and we made several small but important breakthroughs overnight--

ALL OF A SUDDEN A LASER shoots out of the ship's cannons. They all duck for cover. It hits a target on the wall.

LUDLOW (O.S.)
Sorry. Didn't mean that.

MATTY (O.S.)
Dude, be cool!

VIOLET *
I think those things that attacked us were made of energy, intelligent energy. We as a civilization have been harnessing light for a hundred years and in that time we have created electricity, lasers. Things that people a century ago couldn't even begin to comprehend. But it's possible that this civilization has been doing it for thousands of years. Even *hundreds of thousands of years*. So there's no telling what they're capable of doing with it.

BRENNER *
I zoned out after "intelligent energy". But, gotta admit, sounded pretty smart. *

VIOLET *
(rolling her eyes) *
I think maybe the extra-terrestrial race that's attacking us took what they saw in the orbiters and used their technology to create those same things out of light, energy, and then sent them back at us. That's why solid matter like bullets, missiles, our weapons won't harm them.

LUDLOW
But maybe theirs would!

They turn. Ludlow is out of the ship looking at its side.

VIOLET
Their weapons? How would we get their weapons?

LUDLOW
I think we may already have one, seeing as **this is one of their ships.**

Ludlow opens his backpack and pulls out printed up pictures of BREAKOUT and the GALAGA SHIPS.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
It's hard to see but there's a small insignia on each of these things.
(they all look)
The same insignia is on this ship.

EXT. ARMY BASE - LATER *

General Porter addresses A GROUP OF 25 TOUGH NAVY SEALS. *
Brenner and Ludlow stand off to the side. *

GENERAL PORTER
Men, you've served this nation with distinction in combat zones in every nook and cranny of this god-forsaken world, defeating every enemy they've thrown at you. And now, you are going to face, and I can't believe I'm saying this, aliens from outer space.

The SEALS look at each other, roll their eyes.

GENERAL PORTER (CONT'D)
Now these aliens, probably for their own sick amusement, are going to attack us in the form of "video games". So, to help us develop defense strategies and counter-tactics, the President has assigned to us - and I *really* can't believe I'm saying this - these two civilian "video game experts," who we are now required to listen to for 120 seconds.

General Porter stalks off. Brenner and Ludlow (extremely nervous) step forward, to a silent reaction.

LUDLOW
(whispers to Brenner)
I think I'm gonna hurl.

BRENNER
Just be confident. Act the part. We know how to do this stuff. They don't.

Ludlow nods, taking this to heart. They now stand in front of the surly SEALS.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Thank you for that warm introduction, general. My name is Julian Brenner. And this is-

Ludlow shoves Brenner out of the way.

LUDLOW
YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE! Looks to me, Brenner, like *SOMEONE* FORGOT TO SEND US THE BEST OF THE BEST and instead dropped off a bunch of... *incontinent adult-diaper-wearing*... bitchass... cries-themselves--to-sleep-*women-baby... man-people!*

BRENNER
(sotto)
Easy, buddy...

LUDLOW
From now on, *maggots*, you little... *girl maggots*, ---whatever the name for the female form of maggots is! From now on when you shit, WHEN YOU *SHIT YOUR PANTS* YOU'RE GONNA BE THINKING OF ME! So TAKE YOUR TAMPONS OUT OF YOUR LADYBUSINESS AND LISTEN THE EFF UP!
(yells in one Seal's face, spittle flying)
Do I make myself clear?! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?!?!

The SEAL is about to kill him. Brenner steps in.

BRENNER
Look, before you all begin the well earned beating of my friend here, let me say this: I know it seems weird that two geeks like us would be giving advice to you badasses. But see, without knowing it, we spent our childhoods training our prefrontal cortex to perform extremely complex motor feats with hand eye coordination unique to a very specific cognitive acuity, which is meaningless in all other areas of life, but suddenly might come in handy for saving the planet. So we'll try to teach you a few moves in whatever time we have.

Then...

LUDLOW
DO YOU LADIES UNDERSTAND THAT?!

BRENNER
Lud, let it go.

LUDLOW
You got it, buddy.

Ludlow nods. CUT TO:

A FAST PACED TRAINING MONTAGE/WEAPON BUILDING MONTAGE.

-Rows and rows of VINTAGE ARCADE machines have been set up. A different NAVY SEAL stands over the controls of each video game, as Ludlow and Brenner pace behind the soldiers stopping every now and then to give a piece of advice.

-A blueprint is on a table. Violet refers to it as she barks orders to UNDERLINGS, who are making some pretty high-tech shit.

-Cooper is at the "make a cake" store with the KING OF SAUDI ARABIA making a cake as they discuss a free-trade agreement.

The Junior Aide runs in.

JUNIOR AIDE
We just received a message on the UHF signal! The next battle is on. And I don't think we're gonna be able to cover this one up.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Where is it?

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

A stunning shot of the Manhattan skyline.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK - NIGHT

HUMVEES roll down the road through the park. Brenner and Ludlow sit in the back, face to face with the SEALS. Ludlow smiles at the SEALS; they don't smile back.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK NIGHT - NIGHT

They stop in a big field in the middle of the park. Violet opens one of the Humvee's backs, revealing...

LUDLOW
Light cannons...

High tech, sleek, insanely cool. The SEALS each take one out. Violet seems nervous.

VIOLET
Easy with those! We don't have any backups!

General Porter strides over.

GENERAL PORTER
These ray guns gonna work, Cameron?

VIOLET
We had no way to test them, sir. But most of our computer models showed a good degree of effectiveness.

GENERAL PORTER
Good degree?! You're sending my men into battle with untested ordinance?!

VIOLET
I had two days! To do things never done before on this planet! You're lucky we have anything!

GENERAL PORTER
Remember who you're speaking to, Lt. Colonel!

A gruff SARGEANT comes over.

SARGEANT
Anybody who doesn't need to be here should follow me to the support area, now.
(to Brenner and Ludlow)
That means you geeks, too. Move it.

Brenner and Ludlow start walking away, kind of bummed. Brenner sees Violet is shook up.

BRENNER
Hey, Lt. Colonel: it's gonna work.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

The President sits with the national security council watching on monitors. It's quiet. Calm. CNN is on in the background. HAL BOVERT, a caustic commentator, is bloviating.

HAL BOVERT
Our military was attacked. And what does the President do? His specialty - nothing!

A fellow commentator, ANN KNIPPS, chimes in.

ANN KNIPPS
That's not true, Hal - he made a cake with King Abdul!

Footage of Cooper happily making the cake.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Turn that off.
(then into his comms)
Anything, Lt. Colonel Cameron?

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

VIOLET (INTO HER WALKIE-TALKIE)
Not yet. Eerily quiet, Mr. President--

It is quiet, except for a rhythmic groaning noise coming from the walkie-talkie. It almost sounds like... chewing. BACK TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

The Navy Secretary is nervously chowing on a turkey sandwich in the corner. He notices the President and everyone else staring at him.

NAVY SECRETARY
(mouth full)
What?

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

The park is pretty crowded. Brenner squeezes between two metal barriers and walks over to the Sargeant. *

BRENNER
Why are all these citizens still here? Shouldn't you guys have evacuated the park? * *

SARGEANT
Trying not to cause a total-panic situation. Now get back to the support area. * *

BRENNER
I'm just trying to--

SARGEANT
If we need you, we know where to find you. * *

Brenner turns and walks back behind the barrier.

Suddenly, there is THUNDER. LOUD THUNDER. CLOUDS have started to materialize out of the peaceful sky. Above the clouds we see LIGHTS. It's very *magical*. And terrifying.

EXT. OTHER PART OF CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

We see a SOFTBALL game. GUYS are playing. ONE hits a BALL it goes high. He starts to run around the bases.

The CENTER FIELDER goes to catch it. But then the ball doesn't come down. Then they see why:

A **SPACESHIP, MOSTLY HIDDEN BY CLOUDS HEADS TOWARDS THEM.** A GIANT BEAM COMES OUT OF IT. The players' HATS AND GLOVES FLY OFF THEIR BODIES, SUCKED UP INTO THE BEAM as it moves over them. The players all now TURN AND RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK - NIGHT

The ship HOVERS over the field. The sucking beam CEASES. Brenner and the others **all MARVEL at it.**

THE SHIP'S PORTAL OPENS. Then THINGS START TO FALL FROM THE CLOUDS. They look like GIANT MUSHROOMS. Everyone braces for impact, then the giant mushrooms stop mid air. They start to HOVER and FORM A PATTERN IN THE SKY.

BRENNER
Yep, it's Centipede. * *

The SEALS “hooo-rah” and sprint off to their attack positions. Brenner yells instructions from the other side of the barrier.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Remember what we talked about! Kill each centipede from the head down! If you hit it in the middle it will break in two.

LUDLOW *
Then you have two snakethings. Hit it again, four snakethings. We don’t want four snake-things! *

The cocky Seals ignore them and take aim at the night sky. *

And then **THEY COME.** GIANT CENTIPEDES just like from the old arcade game come to life. THE CENTIPEDES NOW EVOLVE FROM the 8 BIT look to more realistic creatures. They are TERRIFYING.

LUDLOW (CONT’D) *
Oh God. Oh God. This is really real.

The GIANT CENTIPEDES SLITHER DOWN FROM THE SKY, THROUGH THE MUSHROOMS. EACH HAS A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY. One CACKLES. Another has A GIANT MOUTH FULL OF TEETH, constantly CHOMPING at the air. Another GROWLS AND SCREAMS. Yet another HISSES.

Also unlike the game that existed on a solely Two Dimensional Plane, this is REAL LIFE and THREE DIMENSIONAL. The creatures attack from all ANGLES.

The Seals start SHOOTING UPWARDS. THE LIGHT CANNONS EMIT LASER BLASTS THAT RESEMBLE THE GAME.

One of SEALS’ beams HIT A CENTIPEDE’S HEAD. IT PIXELLATES! A * cheer goes up. *

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT *

Everyone cheers. Cooper pumps his fist, psyched. *

PRESIDENT COOPER *
The light cannons work! *

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT *

Violet looks back at Brenner and smiles gratefully. *

Then a SEAL fires up at a Centipede and hits it in the * middle. IT SPLITS IN HALF. *

LUDLOW
NO, NO!!! DIDN'T WE JUST SAY DON'T SPLIT THEM IN HALF?! JUST AIM FOR THE *
HEAD!!...

The Seals are NOT USED to these things: the weapons or the prey. They FIRE UP at them. But KEEP MISSING.

SEAL
THE MUSHROOM-THINGS. They're in the way!

BRENNER
SHOOT THE MUSHROOMS! It's just like the game.

LUDLOW *
But most of all remember if they get down to the ground it's gonna get *really bad*, *really quick*.

The Seals FIRE UP at the mushrooms and centipedes. They hit a mushroom which now sends a CENTIPEDE STRAIGHT DOWN TOWARDS THE SEAL. IT'S the SILENT CHOMPING ONE. He doesn't see it.

VIOLET
SGT. DUFF!! LOOK OUT-

TOO LATE. THE CENTIPEDE CHOMPS UP SGT. DUFF, HITS THE GROUND AND scurries quickly off into the bushes.

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

The whole Situation Room watches in shock. *

CIA CHIEF *
Did that centipede just EAT one of our SEALS?! *

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

The remaining Seals continue to SHOOT SKYWARD. They are all freaked out by what just happened. Another CENTIPEDE STREAKS * BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE SKY DOWN TOWARDS THEM LIKE A VICIOUS FLYING SHARK. The Big Seal shoots at it. But it's TOO FAST. He KEEPS MISSING.

BRENNER
No, shoot right... Now left! Look, you can't just fire at where they are, they're too fast. You have to watch the patterns, anticipate where they're going to be and shoot there!

BIG SEAL
I DON'T KNOW THE PATTERNS!

It's moving fast down towards them, CLOSER AND CLOSER. It's SCARY MOUTH BITING AWAY. Finally Brenner can't stand it. He leaps over the barrier and sprints toward the SEAL.

VIOLET
Brenner! No!

Brenner grabs the light cannon from the Seal and STARTS FIRING AT THE CENTIPEDE. BLAST BLAST BLAST!

Piece by piece Brenner BLASTS it, just like in the game. And as it dies we see it RETROGRADE BACK FROM REAL-LOOKING CENTIPEDE TO THE LOWER RESOLUTION 8 BIT ONE FROM THE GAME, FINALLY TO PIXELS OF ENERGY THAT DISSIPATE INTO THE AIR. The dissipated pixels BRUSH PAST Brenner's face.

BIG SEAL
Nice shooting, civilian.

In disbelief, Brenner NODS. He looks at Ludlow and makes a decision.

BRENNER
Ludlow, get over here and grab a light cannon!

LUDLOW
Me?! No! NO! I DON'T WANT TO GET EATEN LIKE THAT SEAL GUY!!

BRENNER
These guys don't know this game! We were born to do this!

The SEALS look to Violet. Violet talks into the walkie-talkie.

VIOLET
Mr. President?

A beat of silence, then...

PRESIDENT COOPER (O.S.)
(quietly)
Let the nerds take over.

VIOLET
What was that, sir?

PRESIDENT COOPER (O.S.)
LET THE NERDS TAKE OVER!!!

A SEAL hands his light cannon to Ludlow. Ludlow looks at Brenner, terrified. Then...

BRENNER
Lud... hit the start button.

The two of them turn skyward and start blasting away. THE SCREAMING CENTIPEDE FLIES DIAGONALLY DOWN FOR LUDLOW. LUDLOW SCREAMS IN TERROR AND BLASTS IT. IT BREAKS IN TWO RIGHT BEFORE it hits him.

LUDLOW
(realizing)
Oh yeah, that's right; I'm pretty good at this.

The two pieces HIT THE GROUND and SLITHER AWAY. They fire at them. Brenner HITS ONE. Ludlow FIRES at the other piece and MISS.

BRENNER
Ludlow... You take the West Side, I'll take the East Side.

A HOPPING SPIDER APPEARS, AND BEGINS HOPPING SUPER-FAST TOWARD GENERAL PORTER. GENERAL PORTER, TERRIFIED, LETS OUT A HIGH-PITCHED SCREAM.

LUDLOW TAKES AIM (THE GUN BARREL TILTING UP AND DOWN AS HE TRACKS THE HOPS). HE FIRES AND NAILS THE SPIDER IN THE NICK OF TIME. THE SPIDER EXPLODES INTO A SHOWER OF PIXELS IN THE GENERAL'S FACE.

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

The President and the Joint Chiefs watch in shock, awe.

PRESIDENT COOPER
YEAH, BOYS! SHOOT THAT SHIT! Shock and awe! High score, bitches!

He turns, sees everyone staring at him.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
What? Cheer 'em on!

Everyone in the room starts cheering raucously.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

BRENNER
Only one left!! Come to Daddy...

Brenner points to the REMAINING CENTIPEDE. But it breaks right quick, MOVING **TOWARDS THE CITY**!

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Where's it going?! It can't do that! That's not how the game works!

VIOLET
In the game there are sides. There's no screen here! No sides, no borders, no out-of-bounds!

They see the Centipede RUN OUT of the park.

EXT. WEST 77TH STREET - NIGHT

The Centipede RUNS OUT into the street, HEADING WEST. PEDESTRIANS freak out, RUNNING AWAY. *

Brenner runs out in hot pursuit. *

The Centipede RUNS TO AN APARTMENT BUILDING and BURSTS through the FRONT DOORS, MOVING INSIDE. *

INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

The Centipede dashes UP THE STAIRS. Brenner CHARGES AFTER IT. * The centipede CRASHES through the FIFTH FLOOR door, into the hallway.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT *

An OLD WOMAN watches her “stories” on TV. THE CENTIPEDE BUSTS THROUGH THE DOOR. She SCREAMS. The creature CRASHES into the TV, DESTROYING IT.

OLD WOMAN
MY STORIES!

Brenner RUNS INSIDE. They take aim at the centipede. Brenner * looks at the Centipede.

BRENNER
Why are you here? What do you want?!

The centipede emits a high pitched LAUGH, turns and LEAPS THROUGH THE WINDOW. *CRASH!!!*

EXT. STREET BELOW- NIGHT

A CROWD of people are gathered outside, seeing the CENTIPEDE BURST OUT THE WINDOW, FLYING DOWN TOWARD THEM. They TURN to RUN OFF. Except for a LITTLE BOY. He stares, in shock, at the flying centipede. It’s HEADING RIGHT DOWN TOWARDS HIM.

Time slows down. Brenner, pissed off, appears at the window and TAKES AIM. THE CENTIPEDE OPENS ITS MOUTH. ONLY A FEW FEET FROM THE BOY.

In SLO MO BRENNER FIRES! *BLAST BLAST BLAST!* The tail end is hit and disappears again and again, the Centipede getting shorter and shorter til it’s just the head, opening it’s mouth to eat the boy... THE LAST BLAST HITS IT. The centipede DE-RESES AND PIXELATES INTO NOTHING.

The Little Boy smiles at him.

LITTLE BOY
Who are you, Mister?

BRENNER
Son, I'm just a guy who's good at old videogames.

INT. SITUATION ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The room breaks into CHEERS. President Cooper bumps chests with the Junior Aide.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

People slowly start to come out of the shadows, back out into the street. Brenner and Ludlow EXIT the apartment building. Upon seeing them, the New Yorkers erupt in CHEERS and APPLAUSE. Brenner and Ludlow look at each other.

LUDLOW
They're clapping for <u>us</u>.

They haven't experienced this since they were 14. A CROWD OF NEW YORKERS surround Brenner and Ludlow, shaking their hands, thanking them. Brenner turns, and Violet's right there, smiling.

VIOLET
Is there anything you Nerd Patrol guys can't fix?

She opens her arms for a hug. Brenner moves in, but she quickly salutes instead. Gotcha.

BRENNER
Zig-zagged me there.

CAMERA PANS ACROSS THE STREET, where Dan, the weird guy who approached Cooper outside the bar stands watching them.

INT. PJ CLARKES, NEW YORK CITY - LATER - NIGHT

The Guys, Violet and the Seals are in a PACKED BAR WITH A TON of NEW YORKERS. The mood is celebratory. Ludlow stands on top of a table, raises his glass...

LUDLOW
DRINKS ARE ON THE GOVERNMENT!

The packed bar SCREAMS AND TOASTS.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
...WHICH IS COVERING UP THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ANCIENT PYRAMID UNDER HOOVER DAM!

The packed bar IS CONFUSED.

Brenner raises a glass to the guys and the Seals.

BRENNER
To Sgt Duff, who gave his life for our freedom.

They all drink to him. Brenner turns to Violet.

VIOLET
You're a good man, Brenner. Sorry I was so rough on you.

BRENNER
I appreciate that. And in exchange for your apology, I am getting you drunk! I'm just letting you know in advance. Which is the gentlemanly thing to do because as far as you know I'm a gentleman.

VIOLET
You can try. But *just so you know* I was the tequila shot record holder in my class at West Point. So it ain't gonna be easy.

BRENNER
(raises a shot)
To wasting all my time as a kid finally paying off.

The doors to the bar fly open and SECRET SERVICE COME IN followed by the President. The PATRONS ALL CHEER HIM.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Where are my gamers at?

Cooper embraces Brenner and Ludlow. One of the SEALS stands and holds up a pitcher.

SEAL
Sir? Can I pour you a frosty?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Hey: I am your President, and a President can't be seen drinking during a time of crisis...
(loosens his tie)
So nobody look!

Cooper grabs the entire pitcher. The crowd CHEERS. As Cooper raises it to his lips...

Every TV in the bar crackles to life. We see a bit of ONE TREE HILL. IT BREAKS UP. 80'S BORN IN THE USA era BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN comes on screen.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
Congratulations. You have(STATIC) won this battle. (STATIC) Please accept one of our warriors as a trophy of your victory.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

A WINO is sitting on the ground near the scene of the attack. A DUCK HUNT DOG emerges from under some rubble, moves over to the Wino and snuggles against him. The Wino pets him while the Duck Hunt Dog licks his face. *

WINO
Good doggy... I love you too...

INT. PJ CLARKES - NIGHT

Everyone stares silently at Springsteen on the TVs.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN (ON TV)
The next challenge will not be (STATIC) as easy. The location and time will be sent via this (STATIC) signal shortly. Remember, we are still leading two * battles to one. (STATIC) one more loss * for you will mean (STATIC) the * annihilation of your world.

Springsteen goes into a windmill move on his guitar, then the TV screens fade back to black. The celebratory mood has instantly turned funereal.

BRENNER
What happened to only using UHF?

LUDLOW
I guess they figured out that Direct TV would reach more people. *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Alright, you heard The Boss. Finish your beers and let's get back to work. We gotta get you guys ready for the next battle.

BRENNER
Us? No, we're not the guys, Chew. We just stepped in to stop it from going wrong.

LUDLOW *
Yeah, we're *advisors*. We advise, and give advice, and stuff like that. Today was a fluke.

PRESIDENT COOPER
A fluke? You guys repelled an alien attack! Something our Air Force and the Navy Seals couldn't do. You have unique skills that the world needs right now. *

Cooper looks at Brenner very seriously.

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
Remember when I told you that you were meant for something more in life? Well if this isn't it, I don't know what is.

All eyes on Brenner, then...

BRENNER
This isn't it. *

VIOLET *
Come on, Brenner, you're the best *
old school video game player in the *
world. You just proved it. *

BRENNER *
Not at everything... *

The meaning of this sinks in. *

LUDLOW *
Oh please God no.

BRENNER
I know. I don't want to see him either. *
But we might need him. *

INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY *

Cooper, Brenner and Violet are led into the prison by the WARDEN. Violet now opens up the vet file on EDDIE PLANT.

VIOLET
Eddie Plant: Married and divorced four times, declared bankruptcy in 1991 and 2004. In 2005, he was caught hacking the cell phone companies and adding one of those fees you see on your bill every month but have no idea what it is, made about 50 million before he was convicted and sentenced to twenty years in prison. This guy a good friend of yours?

BRENNER
No, we hate each other.

INT. HOLDING ROOM, JAIL - DAY

The Warden leads Brenner and Violet into a room. Adult EDDIE PLANT is here. He wears a goatee, a mullet and a few tattoos. When Brenner walks in, Eddie acts mock-terrified.

EDDIE PLANT
Warden, get me outta here! It's that mean centipede killer! I hope he don't zap me with his space gun! *

BRENNER
Hello, Eddie. *

EDDIE PLANT
S'up Second Place. And your sidekick, he * really made something of hisself. *
(before he can say thanks)
I didn't know you could have an approval rating that "catatastrophic". I think the * warden in here is more popular than you.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Alright, let's cut to it. Here's the * deal... In exchange for you helping us, I will personally talk to the parole board about reducing your sentence.

EDDIE PLANT
(sits back smugly)
Pass.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Pass?

EDDIE PLANT
That deal doesn't work for Eddie Plant. If you want the Fire Blaster's help, he has some demands.

BRENNER
Who's the Fire Blaster?

EDDIE PLANT
Me! That's my nickname!

BRENNER
Oh right, the one you made up.

EDDIE PLANT
Look I've been watching the news. I know what's going on out there. And I further know that <u>he</u> despises my * white ass- *

BRENNER
Noooooyes.

EDDIE PLANT
So I know you wouldn't be here unless you really *really* needed my help. Which gets me back to my original point: I have some demands.

PRESIDENT COOPER
(annoyed)
Like what?

Eddie sits back and pulls out a handwritten list of demands.

EDDIE PLANT
I want an island.

BRENNER
Oh g-d.

EDDIE PLANT
There are 18,617 named islands that are part of the United States and its territories! I checked. Not to mention all the other countless unnamed ones.

PRESIDENT COOPER
You're not getting an island.

EDDIE PLANT
Then I want a full pardon. I want to get out of here for good. And after I do I want to pay no more taxes like forever. Like if technology improves and I live forever I want to pay no taxes, *for-ev-er*! Not even sales tax, if I buy some for instance gum, * I want a card that says I saved the world and I don't have to pay no shitballstaxes on gum. I want one of those Stealth Attack Helicopters that they fly over the Super Bowl-- at my disposal at all times to fly my shit around. If the world is still here I don't want to have to deal with traffic anymore. And lastly I want you to set up a rendezvous with me, Taylor Swift and Sigourney Weaver in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Cooper stands and walks out. Brenner goes after him.

BRENNER
Chewie!

Cooper stops, and he and Brenner speak with quiet intensity in the doorway, out of earshot.

PRESIDENT COOPER *
I can't do this, Jules.

BRENNER
We can't do it without him.

PRESIDENT COOPER *
He's going to mess this up. He's going to screw us over.

They look back at Eddie, who's blowing kisses at Violet.

BRENNER
He's no day at the beach. But I think a lot of this is just a front. We're giving him the chance to be a hero. Even assholes like him want to be a hero.

Cooper thinks for a beat, then walks back to the table.

PRESIDENT COOPER
1) You're not getting a helicopter or any sort of flying or driving vehicle. 2) I think the Federal Government can *probably* do without *your* income taxes and be okay. But sales tax you're on your own. And 3) IF you help us beat these things... I think we can get you out of here.

EDDIE PLANT
...And the Swift/Weaver sandwich?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Pick *one* of them.
(disgusted)
We'll see if we can set up... a *meet and greet.*

EDDIE PLANT
Sigourney Weaver. And deal.

Eddie smiles and puts out his cuffed hand to shake Coopers. Violet's phone rings. She answers, nods, then hangs up.

VIOLET
It's gonna be tonight.

BRENNER AND COOPER
Where?

VIOLET
Tokyo.

EXT. TOKYO - NIGHT

The Military Cargo plane flies over the BEAUTIFUL, FUTURISTIC CITY, GLITTERING WITH DAZZLING LIGHTS. THE PLANE LANDS.

EXT. TOKYO AIRPORT - NIGHT

Violet, and the Guys step out. The guys are wearing DARK BLUE MILITARY FLIGHT SUITS. Eddie has a GPS BRACELET on his ankle. There is a JAPANESE DELEGATION waiting for them. A HUGE CROWD of PEOPLE, PRESS, are here as well. Eddie SHOUTS to them.

EDDIE PLANT
Hello Japan, the cavalry has arrived!

Brenner can't believe the reception they're getting.

JAPANESE PREMIER
Thank you for coming. Our country thanks you.

BRENNER
Thanks for having us. So where is our little yellow friend?

An OLD MAN STEPS UP and starts to speak passionately in Japanese. We INTERCUT HIM TELLING HIS STORY AND SEEING WHAT HE IS DESCRIBING. VIOLET translates for the Guys.

VIOLET
It is not little, and is not a friend. It is a giant monster. That came out of the clouds.

-We see Japanese PEOPLE on the streets. They hear a loud noise, turn, see the thing and scream.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
And then it started attacking. Devouring everything in it's path.

-As JAPANESE PEOPLE RUN DOWN THE STREET, we hear cars and other things being eaten. CAR ALARMS GO OFF AND THEN DISAPPEAR, presumably as they are eaten.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
He said it had cold dead eyes. ...That it was like a scene out of the monster movies that he watched as child. Except this time the monster was real...

-We see JAPANESE PEOPLE FLEEING, SCREAMING. Behind them we see a BRIGHT YELLOW GLOW, but don't see what it is yet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
It was...

OLD JAPANESE MAN
The Paccu-man.

BRENNER
Pac Man, right? The little yellow guy? He's got you this worked up?

EDDIE PLANT
(fired up)
All right let's get those lasergun-deals and blast this bodyless eating machine back to whatever planet it came from so I can get my pardon.

LUDLOW
That's not how you defeat Pacman. He gets vaporized by a ghost.

EDDIE PLANT
Okay. So where do we get some ghosts?

-On board the cargo plane we see FOUR MINI COOPERS -- Each of them painted a color like the GHOSTS from Pacman.

Violet points to a high tech METAL CONTRAPTION ATTACHED TO THE ROOF OF EACH OF THE MINI COOPERS.

VIOLET
We used the energy force field technology from the Roswell ship to develop 4 mini generators for each of the cars/"Ghosts." We're calling them Z950 Attack Modules.

BRENNER
And we're calling 'em "Ghost Coopers." But there's four of them, and only three of us. Who's our fourth?

An older Japanese man, TORU IWATANI, steps forward. He is wearing a jumpsuit like Brenner, Ludlow and Eddie.

VIOLET
May I introduce Professor Toru Iwatani... the inventor of Pac Man.

LUDLOW
(bowing)
Iwatani-san! The honor, is mine.

EDDIE PLANT
I made your game my bitch!

PROF. IWATANI
What is... "beetch"?

BRENNER
Don't listen to anything the fuzzy one says, Professor. Welcome aboard.

VIOLET
Assuming they follow the rules of the game like they did with Centipede, if you guys hit Pacman three times with this energy field, we win.

BRENNER
Listen to you, talking nerd all sexy...

The guys go to their cars. Brenner, nervous but trying not to show it, struggles with his power suit. Violet sees.

VIOLET
Here, I'll help you.

She helps up with all the straps and zippers of the power suit. She zips up the last one. They look at each other.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Good luck.

She then quickly kisses him on the cheek for luck and walks off. Brenner smiles and heads to his Ghostcooper.

EXT. CARGO PLANE, TOKYO - NIGHT

The guys drive the four Ghostcoopers with licence plates that say INKY, BLINKY, PINKY AND CLYDE out of the plane. They speak to each other on comms.

LUDLOW *
By the way... Why am I Pinky?

BRENNER *
Cause I saw you in the shower on the *
plane ride over. *

Eddie Plant laughs. *

BRENNER (CONT'D) *
What's so funny, Thumb?

Professor Iwatani laughs. *

PROF. IWATANI *
...thumb... *

INT. CARGO PLANE, TOKYO - CONTINUOUS

We see Violet at a command center on the plane with Dr. Ben.

VIOLET (INTO THE COMMS)
I'll be your eyes and ears, watching from real time satellites feeds. Pacman's moving fast, but I'm sending his current coordinates to each of the car's GPS'.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT

The Ghostcoopers roll into the city. We see PEOPLE FLEEING. DESTRUCTION. It's like a scene out of a Godzilla movie.

We hear the FAMILIAR SOUND OF PACMAN MOVING, EATING, but now on a grander scale. They HEAD towards the noise. It's getting LOUDER AND LOUDER.

They round the corner and see **THE PACMAN.** He is like a giant yellow, three dimensional version of the one from the game.

CROWDS OF PEOPLE flee from him. The slower ones are DEVOURED by Pacman, along with abandoned cars, motorcycles...

EDDIE PLANT
Look at the size of that thing! It looks like Barry Bonds' head!

BRENNER
I can't believe Pac Man's a bad guy. He always seemed like a friend...

LUDLOW
Someone you could tell your troubles to.

PAC-MAN devours a guy on a motorcycle.

PROF. IWATANI
Looks like the friendship is over.

Pacman sees them and STOPS EATING the line of abandoned cars. They stare at each other for a moment. Then Pacman QUICKLY TURNS and starts heading in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

EDDIE PLANT
All right let's go get this mother!

It's on! The PEOPLE MOVE TO BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET TO CLEAR A PATH FOR THE GUYS. THE GHOST-COOPERS TAKE OFF AFTER PACMAN.

PROFESSOR IWATANI IMMEDIATELY VEERS OFF AND CRASHES INTO THE SIDE OF A BUILDING, WRECKING THE CAR.

BRENNER
Professor! What happened?

PROF. IWATANI
I don't know how to drive a car!

BRENNER
What? You're a grown man! How do you get around, a chauffeur or something?

PROF. IWATANI
What you think? I invented Pac-Man, beeeeetch!

EDDIE PLANT
Alright losers, three on one, let's go!

THE THREE REMAINING GHOST-COOPERS HAUL ASS.

EXT. TOKYO STREET - NIGHT

CAMERA follows behind Pacman as he FLIES DOWN the street. He eats a COMMUTER BUS. Just like the game he TURNS ON A DIME, FLYING down another street. The GHOSTCOOPERS chase after.

INT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY *

The Handsome Homeowner from the beginning of the movie, his Gorgeous Wife and their three kids are watching the Pac Man attack on their taped up TV (it looks kind of like an OJ style car chase). A headshot of Brenner appears. *

THIRD CHILD *
Hey, that's the nerd who broke our TV! *

INT. GHOSTCOOPERS/VARIOUS - NIGHT

BRENNER
He's faster than I remember.

Brenner SHIFTS into high gear and FLOORS IT. The three Ghostcoopers are nipping at its heels, but Pacman is STILL FASTER. * *

EDDIE PLANT *
Pac Man's always been faster than the ghosts. We're gonna have to out maneuver his ass. Zitface - you and Brenner break off. I'll stay with Big Yellow. * * * * *

In their cars, Brenner and Ludlow TURN OFF in a different direction. Eddie is in HOT PURSUIT. * *

WE SEE Eddie look at something written on his hand. *

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

Violet looks at the SATELLITE FOOTAGE AND MAPS OF THE STREETS. We see Eddie's car CHASING after Pacman on the screen, while Ludlow and Brenner's cars move into position to flank him. With THE GRID OF THE CITY AND HIM EATING THE SMALL CARS IN HIS PATH IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE THE GAME. * * *

VIOLET *
Alright, you need to start thinking about how to trap him-- * *

ON THE SCREEN, WE SEE THE RED SHAPE REPRESENTING EDDIE'S CAR MOVE CLEAR ACROSS THE GRID INSTANTANEOUSLY. * *

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Huh? Eddie, how did you do that so fast? * *

EDDIE PLANT
Cause I'm the champ, baby!

VIOLET
Ludlow, turn right at the next intersection; Brenner, turn left and then he's trapped. Way to go, Eddie.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS/VARIOUS - NIGHT

Pacman continues CHOMPING his way through traffic. Eddie is now zooming toward him.

Pac Man tries to double back, but BRENNER AND LUDLOW'S CARS ARE THERE! Eddie SLAMS INTO THE BACK OF PACMAN! WE HEAR THE NOISE FROM THE GAME WHEN A GHOST KILLS PACMAN.

Pacman SCREAMS. He lets out a BIG ROAR that rocks the city.

BRENNER
ONE DOWN!

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

VIOLET
TWO TO GO!

INT. PJ CLARKES - NIGHT

The SEALS are still at the same bar, three days later. The cheer drunkenly as they watch on TV.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

Violet looks at the satellite footage.

VIOLET
Okay, Number 2 just re-generated four streets away, now heading northbound. So turn east at the next intersection.

INT. GHOSTCOOPERS-VARIOUS - NIGHT

Brenner, Ludlow and Eddie are back in pursuit of Pacman.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

VIOLET
Okay... Brenner stay straight. Eddie go right. Ludlow left.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS/VARIOUS - NIGHT

The three Ghost-Coopers ROLL DOWN various streets. Brenner is HOT on Pacman's tail. Pacman TURNS A CORNER. ALL THREE CARS CLOSE IN.

LUDLOW *
WE GOT HIM! HE HAS NOWHERE TO GO!

All of them smile. Then see something and their FACES FALL.

BRENNER
Oh shit.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

VIOLET
Oh shit what? *Oh shit what?!*

EXT. TOKYO STREET - CONTINUOUS

We see Pacman and the Three Ghostcoopers on three sides of him. Then on the fourth side we see...A GIANT POWER PILL!

PACMAN EATS IT. He STARTS TO GLOW AND SHAKE.

SCREAMING LUDLOW VEERS RIGHT. BRENNER SHIFTS INTO REVERSE AND * FLOORS IT. POWERED UP PACMAN HEADS AFTER HIM.

EXT. TOKYO STREET - CONTINUOUS

Brenner still flooring it in reverse as Pacman chases him with a vengeance like the *T-Rex in Jurassic Park*.

VIOLET (OVER COMMS)
What's happening?!

BRENNER
A power pill! *He's got thirty seconds where <u>he</u> can eat <u>us</u>.* *

Brenner then makes a HARD TURN. He looks and Pacman is GONE.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS/VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

Ludlow stops. Looks around. He doesn't see him anywhere. He * is breathing heavily, hyper-ventilating. Then in his REAR VIEW WE SEE PACMAN QUICKLY COMING TOWARDS HIM FROM BEHIND.

Ludlow HITS the gas. Pacman CHASES HIM, he's FASTER than * Ludlow and QUICKLY CATCHES UP to the Ghost-Cooper. Pacman * opens his mouth and... BITES OFF THE BACK HATCH of Ludlow 's * car. Leaving a GAPING HOLE. LUDLOW, EYES WIDE, SCREAMS! *

Freaked out Ludlow FLOORS THE GAS. But Pacman is still * CHASING HIM, STILL CHOMPING.

Pacman TAKES ANOTHER BITE and gobbles up the ENTIRE REAR SECTION of the car. Ludlow is literally driving on TWO WHEELS. His seat the only thing separating him from Pacman, who is still in HOT PURSUIT. Only a FEW INCHES from gobbling up Ludlow. He tries to jump, but his seatbelt is JAMMED! He emits a girlish scream, keeps pulling on his seat belt.

About to be Pac-food, Ludlow HITS THE BRAKES, causing the car to SPIN around, facing Pacman, whose mouth OPENS WIDE...

THE SEATBELT FINALLY BREAKS FREE AND LUDLOW LEAPS OUT OF THE OPEN BACK OF HIS VEHICLE RIGHT AS PACMAN EATS IT!

Again we hear the DEAFENING GHOST-EATING SOUND. Then Pacman's power boost finally runs out.

Ludlow lies on the ground, defenseless without his GhostCooper. PACMAN NOW STARTS COMING AFTER LUDLOW.

INT. VIOLET'S HOUSE - DAY

Matty is watching this on TV along with some FRIENDS and a HOT BABYSITTER. They all cheer Ludlow on.

ALL
Run! Get out of there! Go! etc.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS/VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

Ludlow takes off RUNNING down the street as Pacman CHASES HIM.

Pacman is about to EAT LUDLOW WHEN EDDIE'S GHOSTCOOPER BLASTS INTO HIM FROM THE SIDE. PACMAN SCREAMS AGAIN. DIES.

EDDIE PLANT
You just got fireblasted, sucker!

Ludlow sighs, then PASSES OUT on the ground.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

Violet looks at the command map, confused.

VIOLET
How the hell did Eddie get over there so fast?

EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT

BRENNER
Nice work, Eddie. One more and we go home.

EDDIE PLANT
There he is...

They spot Pac Man moving away at the far end of a long avenue. They shift their GhostCoopers into high gear and speed after him side by side. But then Eddie really floors it and zooms ahead.

EDDIE PLANT (CONT'D)
Why you so mad, big cheese? Ms. Pac Man cut you off?

Eddie, doing about 120, gets really close when Pac-Man suddenly turns left. Eddie, going too fast, can't negotiate the turn and continues on straight - right into Tokyo Harbor.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

EDDIE PLANT (ON COMMS)
The Fireblaster can't swim!

VIOLET
We're sending a boat! Brenner, it's on you. And heads up: there are still *three other power pills* still out there.

INT. BLINKY (BRENNER'S CAR) - NIGHT

Brenner stops in the middle of the street. Breathing heavy, feeling the pressure. Maybe feeling like getting out of there. Then...

BRENNER
I got this. If I don't, the world ends. No big deal.

Brenner shifts into HIGH GEAR and heads after Pacman.

VARIOUS SHOTS of Georgetown family, the SEALS and Matty & friends watching on TV, nervously cheering Brenner on.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT

As Brenner chases Pacman through the streets we see the sidewalks lined with JAPANESE PEOPLE CHEERING HIM ON. Brenner sees this and it really impacts him. He can't help but smile.

VIOLET (O.S.)
Brenner, he's leading you directly towards one of the power pills. Get out of there!

Up ahead Brenner sees the POWER PILL. Pacman HEADS FOR IT.

Brenner SLAMS on the brakes. He is about to throw it in reverse and get out of there. But then he STOPS. Gets another idea. He TURNS THE CAR AROUND and then just SITS THERE.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

They all watch, nervous, on the monitor as Pacman eats the pill. And Brenner is just sitting there. NOT MOVING.

VIOLET
What's he doing? Why isn't he getting the hell out of there?

EXT. TOKYO STREET - CONTINUOUS

Powered up Pacman TURNS TOWARD Brenner, who still WAITS.

BRENNER
One, two, three...

VIOLET (OVER THE COMMS)
Dammit, Brenner, I have a son who I would like to see grow up. GET OUT OF THERE!!!

Pacman HEADS for Brenner, who THROWS IT IN GEAR and TAKES OFF. Pacman is RACING TOWARD HIM. Brenner KEEPS COUNTING.

BRENNER
You'll see your boy grow up...
Eight, nine, ten...

Brenner DRIVES as Pacman chases him, we see the people of Tokyo cheering him on.

Brenner KEEPS COUNTING. Sweat rolls down his face.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
...27, 28, 29...

Pacman is GAINING by the second. He is now literally ABOUT TO EAT Brenner's car. And Brenner is NOT DIVING OUT.

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS *

VIOLET
BRENNER GET OUT, *IT'S GOING TO EAT YOU!*

INT. BLINKY (BRENNER'S CAR) - CONTINUOUS

BRENNER
Thirty.

And with that BRENNER SLAMS HARD ON THE BRAKES, exactly as the same moment as POWERED UP PACMAN'S POWER RUNS OUT. Pacman has NO TIME TO TURN AROUND... NOWHERE TO GO.

THE BACK OF BRENNER'S GHOST COOPER HITS HIM SQUARE ON. Pacman SCREAMS. BOOOO-OOP! We hear the noises as Pacman DIES. <u>IT'S HIS THIRD DEATH</u>! <u>We hear the game over/victory noise.</u> <u>THE GUYS WIN</u>! *

INT. PLANE COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The Command Center erupts in CHEERS.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT

Brenner gets out of the Cooper and sees the people of Tokyo cheering. A JEEP pulls up, and a wet Eddie Plant gets out.

EDDIE PLANT
You're pretty good, Brenner. Not as good as me, but pretty good.

They shake hands.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

Cooper and his wife watch this happily on TV.

PRESIDENT COOPER
That's our second win. We're all tied up, baby!

FIRST LADY
Thanks to my man Jules.

PRESIDENT COOPER
(thrown)
Uh, yeah. Thanks to Jules. Your man.

EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT

As Brenner and Eddie are being mobbed by Japanese well-wishers, Ludlow emerges from the crowd with something hidden under a blanket.

LUDLOW
I think I found our "trophy".

He lifts the blanket so the other guys can see - it's a fidgety, grumbling, 3 feet tall Q-BERT. He's pretty cute.

BRENNER
Holy crap, it's Q-Bert!

EDDIE PLANT
Can I kill it?

Q-Bert makes an extra-sad face.

BRENNER
No! Leave him alone. Maybe later, I don't know. Hide that thing!

Ludlow pulls the blanket down over Q-Bert as the appreciative crowd closes in on them.

FADE TO *

An 80's-era TV set. It turns on, and we see a NEWS REPORT. *

NEWS REPORTER *
After yesterday's victory over Pac- *
Man in Tokyo, the Arcaders spent *
the day practicing... *

CHANNEL CHANGES to a different NEWS SHOW. *

ANCHOR *
A large spacecraft has been *
detected near Jupiter - and it's *
heading toward Earth. There is *
speculation that the aliens are *
coming to watch the final game in *
person, or in alien, I guess... *

CHANNEL CHANGES to Bovert and Knipps. *

HAL BOVERT *
The space ship is expected to *
arrive here in three days... *

ANN KNIPPS *
...and what the aliens will find is *
a President whose approval ratings *
have skyrocketed. *

CHANNEL CHANGES to Cooper addressing a news conference. *

PRESIDENT COOPER *
I would urge everyone to carry on *
business as usual. I have every *
confidence in the Arcaders to meet *
the final challenge... *

A REPORTER calls out from the crowd. *

REPORTER *
Thank you for saving us, Mr. *
President! *

The rest of the reporters break into applause. Cooper smiles. *
ANOTHER REPORTER asks a question. *

ANOTHER REPORTER *
Mr. President, the Arcaders have *
been practicing non-stop. Are you *
going to allow them any breaks from *
video games? *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Well, I have urged them to take a few hours off tomorrow night to attend a ball the Japanese Ambassador is throwing in their honor, in gratitude for--

TV CLICKS OFF. WIDEN TO REVEAL we are in the dingy, kitschy apartment of Dan. He's sitting in a ratty chair, scowling.

DAN
Fools!

INT. AREA 52 - NIGHT

On a couch in a small "hang out" area, Matty is playing WARWORLD with Brenner.

BRENNER
There's no rhyme or reason to newfangled games like this. They're just coming out from everywhere all at once.

MATTY
If someone programed it, there's a pattern, you just need to find it. In the meantime just shoot the Demon Soldier's spine out of his back.

BRENNER
So violent. You sure you should be seeing this?

MATTY
Yeah, my Mom lets me play these games all the time.

BRENNER
Not you. Him.

REVEAL Q-BERT on the couch next to Matty, watching the screen, looking shell shocked.

MATTY
He does look a little freaked out.

BRENNER
What's he doing out of his cage anyway? What if he suddenly decides to kill us all?

MATTY
Come on, Brenner. Look how sweet he is.
(Q-bert smiles)
That's gonna hurt you?

Q-Bert makes a cute squeaky noise. *

MATTY (CONT'D) *
How about we go on the trampoline for a few minutes?

Q-BERT
(excited)
Trampoline! Trampoline!

BRENNER
I'm too old to go on the trampoline.

MATTY
No duh. So we'll do that while you go ask my Mom to the ball tomorrow * night. *

He gestures toward the other side of the huge room, where Violet is in work clothes, fine tuning a scary looking giant LIGHT CANNON.

BRENNER *
I don't know why we're celebrating. *
We haven't even won yet. *
(a beat) *
Why? Did your mom say she wanted me *
to ask her? *

MATTY *
No. But if you don't ask her, Eddie *
might... *

He gestures toward another part of the huge room, where Eddie * and Ludlow are playing "Space Invaders" side-by-side. Eddie * is yelling at the machine. *

EDDIE PLANT *
You like that? All day, baby, all *
day! *

BRENNER
Whatever. What if I don't want to * ask your Mom out?

Matty gives him an are-you-kidding look. So does Q-Bert.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Alright, alright. *

Matty and Q-Bert walk to an area in the far corner of the room, where a small workout area (including a trampoline) has * been set up. Both climb on and begin jumping up and down. Brenner takes a deep breath and walks over to Violet, who's tightening a bolt.

BRENNER
Hi.

VIOLET
Hi.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Yeah... So...

VIOLET
So...

BRENNER
So this thing tomorrow, I feel kind of obligated to make an appearance, and I was thinking, if you were gonna be there too, then when you get there, we could, you know, hang out together.

VIOLET
Like a date?

BRENNER
No, nothing like that, just... yeah, a date.

In the BG, we see Matty cheering on Q-Bert as he does crazy high flips and such on the trampoline.

VIOLET
(teasing)
Um... I don't know. You did say that I was "snobby", and had "mental problems".

BRENNER
Well, let's face it, you do, but I'm willing to overlook that.

In the background, Q-Bert bounces so high his head gets caught in the ceiling. He makes his funny "game over" sound.

EXT. JAPANESE EMBASSY - NIGHT

The Old Ambassador's Residence, one of the largest formal estates in D.C., is lit up for a party. Lines of limos wait to discharge their formally dressed passengers.

EXT. JAPANESE EMBASSY - REAR LAWN - NIGHT

A huge gala. A dance floor has been laid over the lawn, and a swing band plays a jaunty tune. But then the band stops, mid-song, and quickly begins playing "Hail to the Chief". The President has arrived.

He is accompanied by Brenner and the First Lady; all are enthusiastically applauded.

BRENNER
I wish they played my theme song every time I walked into a party.

PRESIDENT COOPER
That would be cool, but most orchestras don't know "Comfortably Numb".
(looking around)
Is she here yet?

BRENNER
I don't see her, but I'm glad Ludlow and his mom made it.

CUT TO Ludlow and HIS MOM at the buffet table. She's sneaking chicken tenders into her purse.

LUDLOW
Mom, you're embarrassing me!

LUDLOW'S MOM
Oh, these fancy folks won't notice a few missing chicken nuggets...

BACK TO BRENNER, COOPER and the FIRST LADY.

FIRST LADY
Who are you looking for?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Jules has a hot date tonight.

The First Lady stiffens, and seems a tad defensive.

FIRST LADY
Oh. That's great. Is she pretty?

BRENNER
She's alright, she's, uh... whoa.

What he sees is Violet walking in, in her full dress uniform. She looks amazing. She's holding hand with Matty, who's in a tux.

MATTY
Q-Bert!

Matty sees Q-Bert, also in a tux (with a bandage on his head), getting down on the dance floor, and runs to play with him. Brenner walks over to Violet, and salutes.

VIOLET
Hi. You look nice.

BRENNER
Thanks. I know we're on duty, and could get the call at any time, but Chewie says I'm allowed have half a beer. Want to split one with me?

VIOLET
Lead the way.

As Brenner and Violet walk off, we see Eddie Plant walk in with SIGOURNEY WEAVER. A burly SECRET SERVICE AGENT stands between them.

EDDIE PLANT
Well looky here, a big party to thank me for saving the world! Guess I'm gonna have to go to a lot more of these, right, babe?

SIGOURNEY WEAVER
You sure will, Eddie.
(to Secret Service Agent)
Almost makes you wish the world *was* ending.

EXT. JAPANESE EMBASSY - REAR LAWN - 30 MINUTES LATER

Brenner and Violet are on the outskirts of the party, sharing a beer.

BRENNER
So what's this Sinnamon look like?

VIOLET
What do you mean? She's a husband-stealing yoga teacher. She's hot!

BRENNER
Not *that* hot though, right? Girls like that, who go with older guys, always have one thing wrong with them, like big nostrils or a huge forehead or something.

VIOLET
No, Sinnamon is pretty much perfect... except her eyes are too far apart. She kind of looks like a flounder.

BRENNER
Boom, there it is. Tonight, he's gonna be looking into those eyes, thinking, "What happened? I used to look into the most gorgeous eyes in the world, now I'm stuck with Goggle-Eyes McGee."

VIOLET
Did you just say I had gorgeous eyes?

BRENNER
While insulting the other chick.

VIOLET
Oh, you're good.

BACK NEAR THE DANCE FLOOR, Cooper is watching his wife dancing with Professor Iwatami when Ludlow's Mom walks over.

LUDLOW'S MOM
I don't mean to bother you, Mr. President, but I wanted to thank you for giving my boy a job.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Mrs. MacNally, you can call me Will, you've known me since I was 12. And your boy is doing a great service for his country - for his planet, actually.

LUDLOW'S MOM
Yeah, it's just good to see him out of his room, enjoying life a little...

QUICK CUT of Ludlow showing some of his Loch Ness Monster drawings in a battered notebook to General Porter and the Japanese Premier. BACK TO Cooper and Mrs. MacNally.

LUDLOW'S MOM (CONT'D)
Are you going to finish that shrimp?

On the cocktail plate Cooper is holding, among several discarded shrimp tails, is one shrimp with a bite taken out. Cooper hands it to Ludlow's Mom.

AT THE BAR, Eddie is chatting up Sigourney Weaver, the Secret Service Agent hovering nearby.

EDDIE PLANT
People talk about Brenner this and Brenner that, but make no mistake: the Fire Blaster's the leader of this crew--

SIGOURNEY WEAVER
Who's the Fire Blaster?

EDDIE PLANT
Me, Siggareeni!

SIGOURNEY WEAVER
Who's Siggareeni?

EDDIE PLANT
You!

BACK TO BRENNER AND VIOLET

VIOLET *
So can I ask you a question? And I promise this has nothing to do with my *alleged* snobbiness... But I've seen what you're capable of these past few weeks. So how come you're setting up people's home entertainment systems for a living?

BRENNER
That wasn't the plan. I was gonna change the world... make rocket ships, flying cars, jetpacks... stuff like that.

VIOLET
So what happened?

BRENNER
Same thing that always happens to me: I * run out of steam. I was always good at * finding patterns, and that's my pattern: * can't finish. *

VIOLET
That sounds like a cop-out. I had the worst acne east of the Mississippi when I was 15, and I didn't curl up in a ball * and cry. *

BRENNER
Is this an intervention or something, Dr. Phil?

VIOLET
Sorry, no. I'm actually a big fan of yours. Your best friend, who is one of the smartest men I have ever met, says you're the smartest man *he's* ever met.

BRENNER
You and Chewie were talking about me? What else did he say?

VIOLET
That you're a lightweight drinking-wise, but I already knew that.

BRENNER
Did also he tell you I'm a really good kisser?

VIOLET
Amazing kisser is what you said to me in the closet. But no, that he didn't mention. Maybe you could give me some other references-

And with that Brenner moves in for a kiss. But he's interrupted by sound of tinkling glasses. The Japanese Premier has an announcement.

JAPANESE PREMIER
Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to introduce a special message of gratitude from His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito!

Large TV screens surrounding the party flicker to life. They briefly display images of a smiling Emperor Akihito, but soon flicker and distort into 80's era DARYL HALL and JOHN OATES.

DARYL HALL (ON TV)
People of earth: you have violated the rules of warfare. Because of this, you have forfeit and your planet is now (STATIC) ours.

PRESIDENT COOPER
"Violated the rules off warfare?" What the hell does that mean?

JOHN OATES (ON TV)
In 48 hours we will commence with our invasion and the all-out destruction of Earth.

Eddie looks very shifty-eyed. He nervously gulps his drink.

DARYL HALL (ON TV)
Resistance will be futile.

The TV's go dark. People begin murmuring, upset. GENERAL PORTER turns on Brenner, accusatory.

GENERAL PORTER
What did you do?

BRENNER
I didn't do anything. I don't know what they're talking about. I thought we did everything right--

GENERAL PORTER
You thought wrong, civilian! We wasted our one chance on you, a hi-fi repairman! You were given every available resource, and still you fumbled!

BRENNER
But I--

GENERAL PORTER
But nothing! You heard Hall and Oates: you blew it! I've seen your file: you've never accomplished a damn thing! And your streak continues!

PRESIDENT COOPER
That's enough, General. We tried something, and it didn't work. Now we have to prepare for an invasion. How many light cannons do we currently have?

VIOLET
28. But we can start making more--

PRESIDENT COOPER
No time, Lt. Colonel. We'll deploy the 28, two each to the fourteen biggest cities. Jules, you and Lud can cover New York--

BRENNER
No, he's right. You should do this without me.

PRESIDENT COOPER
C'mon, Jules, we still need you.

BRENNER
No you don't. It's time for Plan B, man. And I'm not part of that.

Brenner walks out. People murmur, even more upset now.

GENERAL PORTER
Mr. President, forget the light sabers or whatever they are. I think we need to prepare our entire nuclear arsenal--

PRESIDENT COOPER
General, you saw what these things can do. Nuclear weapons won't work.

LUDLOW'S MOM
We're dealing with aliens! Sigourney knows what to do!

SIGOURNEY WEAVER
There's only one thing to do...

Sigourney grabs a bottle of Jim Beam off the bar, and starts chugging.

As Cooper and General Porter continue arguing, Eddie is moving swiftly toward the exit - but standing in his way is Ludlow.

LUDLOW
Going someplace, Eddie?

Eddie starts crying. Sobbing. He says something, but he's crying too hard to understand.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
Slow down. What are you saying?

EDDIE PLANT
In Tokyo, I... used a cheat code.

VIOLET
(walking over)
Cheat code?

EDDIE PLANT
I know all the cheat codes. I used 'em back in the day. Just for giggles I tried using 'em when we fought Pac-Man in Tokyo - and it worked! I did up, up, left, fire, down, up, right, fire, and zipped across half the city in no time!

LUDLOW
You *cheated*? So now we're all gonna *die*?

EDDIE PLANT
(sobbing, points to Iwakani)
Why'd you have to make the game so hard?

Iwakani shakes his head, like "what a jerk".

LUDLOW
Brenner put himself on the line for you, and this is how you repay him?

The TV screens suddenly flicker on again, and Hall & Oates reappear.

DARYL HALL (ON TV)
Almost forgot (STATIC) our trophy.

Above the party, thousands of lights flicker on - THE GIGANTIC ALIEN SHIP IS HOVERING DIRECTLY ABOVE THEM.

A PORTAL OPENS, AND A BEAM OF LIGHT FALLS ON

MATTY. FEAR FILLS HIS EYES AS HE BEGINS RISING IN THE AIR.

VIOLET
MATTY!!!

INT. BRENNER'S VAN - NIGHT

Brenner is driving, upset, when a face appears from the back of the van. It's Dan.

DAN
I need to talk to you--

Brenner screams and gives Dan the same backhand punch to the face he gave Ludlow. Dan falls back as Brenner drives off the road into a tree.

Brenner and Dan are bruised but alright.

BRENNER
Hey, you're that nut who tried to bum rush Chewie. What do you want from me?!

DAN
I'm not a nut. My earth name is Dan. I am from the Alpha Centauri galaxy. I was the third crew member on the crashed Roswell ship.

BRENNER
Well, glad you're not a nut.

"Dan" then MORPHS HIS HUMAN HEAD INTO HIS ALIEN FACE! Brenner freaks, STUNNED.

MALE VOICE
Now will you listen to me?

Brenner shocked now nods okay. Dan, back in human form, sits in the passenger seat.

ALIEN DAN
We were sent here in 1947, alerted to your presence by your radio signals. Our ship crashed on entry. My fellow crew members didn't make it, but I walked away and took on this form. My job was to find out whether your people were a threat. But before I could report back, I fell in love with your culture, your food, your movies and music and theme parks. Have you been to EPCOT? All the little countries... marvelous. On our world there's no fun, no laughter. Only war.

BRENNER
I think I lived there during my first marriage.

ALIEN DAN
We weren't always that way. We were once a peaceful planet until we were attacked by a vicious alien race who almost completely wiped us out. Our survivors built up our military, to prepare us for other threats. Whenever another planet threatened us, we went after them first, took them out before they could hurt us.

BRENNER
But we didn't threaten you--

ALIEN DAN
They think you did, when you sent the orbiter. They don't understand the concept of games. All they know is war. That's what they thought your games were.

BRENNER
So why don't you tell them? Stop them?

ALIEN DAN
They think I died with the others. If I resurfaced now they'd assume that I changed allegiances, that I worked for you.

BRENNER *
So then game over. There's no way *
to beat your alien buddies. I mean, *
we did beat them, but then they *
said we cheated or something... *

ALIEN DAN *
You did cheat. *

BRENNER *
I never cheated in my life! *

ALIEN DAN *
Your friend Eddie. In Tokyo. He *
used a cheat code. *

BRENNER *
It was *Eddie*? It's still my fault. *
I'm the one who brought him into *
this. *

ALIEN DAN *
They just took your girlfriend's *
son. As a trophy. *

BRENNER *
Matty? *

ALIEN DAN *
Does she have another son? *

BRENNER
No, no, I just was thrown by the "your girlfriend" thing. Did she tell you she was my girlfriend?

ALIEN DAN
That's seriously the part you're focusing on? Not the alien abduction of a child, or the world ending?

BRENNER
Oh shut up. What am I supposed to do?

ALIEN DAN
Stop feeling sorry for yourself, get off your fat ass, save the world and your girlfriend's kid.
(off Brenner's look)
And yes. I can read minds: she wants to be your girlfriend.

INT. AREA 52 - LATER - DAY

Alien Dan has drawn up plans of the ship. Brenner and Ludlow stand with Violet, studying the plans.

ALIEN DAN
The mothership will go from big city to big city, unleashing their warriors, who will destroy everything in sight. They'll move on to the smaller cities, then towns and farms... until there's nothing left.

LUDLOW
(looking at Violet)
...said *the third guy from the Roswell ship*.

VIOLET
Okay, okay, you were right.
(back to Dan)
So who are the warriors?

ALIEN DAN
What they saw in the orbiter. The ones you've faced. Other ones you haven't yet.

BRENNER
So like an All Star Video Game.

LUDLOW
Of destruction.

ALIEN DAN
Coming at you together all at once, not playing the games anymore, just destroying everything in their path.

BRENNER
Great, so we could beat them before because we knew the patterns, rules. But now there are no patterns, no rules.

LUDLOW *
Not to be negative, but there's only * two of us and God knows how many of * them. How do we stop them?

ALIEN DAN
There is one way. On board the ship is an energy generator. Our people called it the ZOREX.

LUDLOW *
Zorex. Perfect name. *

ALIEN DAN *
It's what created all the creatures you've done battles with. All you need to do is get on the ship and destroy it-

VIOLET *
Do you have any idea where Matty or this other thing-- *

LUDLOW *
The Zorex. *

VIOLET *
--the Zorex is located on the ship? *

ALIEN DAN
Unfortunately I can't help you with that. This ship is completely different from the ones I knew 70 years ago.

They all ponder this then from behind them they hear.

CHILD LIKE VOICE (O.S.)
I... know.

They all slowly turn & see that it was Q-bert who said this.

Q-BERT
(struggles with each word)
Matty... friend... Q-bert know ship. ...Help save... Matty... Save Earrrrth.

They all look at him speechless. Brenner smiles in disbelief.

BRENNER
Okay, great. Thank you... *Q-bert*.
(to Dan)
So where will the invasion start? *

ALIEN DAN
Capital of the world. Washington
DC. *

INT. AREA 52 - LOCKER ROOM - DAY *

Brenner and Ludlow get into their jumpsuits. Suddenly, Violet * appears, puts on jumpsuit.

BRENNER
What are you doing?

VIOLET
I'm going with you guys. To get *
Matty.

LUDLOW *
You don't know how to play these
games--

VIOLET
I designed these weapons, these
suits. I can help. I have to help.

BRENNER
I guess we can let you on the
Arcaders, on a probationary basis.
Consider this your tryout.

Violet gets her jumpsuit on. Brenner can see that it's definitely cut for a woman.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Where'd you get that suit?

VIOLET
It was an early prototype I had
lying around the lab.

BRENNER
That's a very feminine prototype. I *
think somebody wanted to be part of *
the team...

They exchange a smile.

CUT TO Q-BERT NEARBY, GETTING INTO HIS OWN TINY POWERSUIT, * CHUCKLING TO HIMSELF. *

Q-BERT *
Get a room... *

EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - DAY

The MOTHERSHIP comes out of the clouds. We SEE IT FULLY FOR THE FIRST TIME. It's the ship from GALAGA.

The PORTAL OPENS. ARCADE CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE, POUR OUT. It's an ALL STAR VERSION OF VARIOUS ARCADE GAMES FROM THE EIGHTIES. But this time they aren't here to play games, but to BRING ABOUT OUR DESTRUCTION.

The ostrich from JOUST LANDS on the side of THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. BASHING HIS WAY TO THE BOTTOM. HUGE CHUNKS of the monument become PIXILATED. It looks like all hope is lost when suddenly...

A GIANT ENERGY BURST FLIES THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS THE OSTRICH.

It HITS IT. The Ostrich screams and FALLS OFF THE MONUMENT.

We turn around and see that... VIOLET has just made the shot. BRENNER, LUDLOW, and Q-Bert look at her, impressed.

VIOLET
What, I didn't go to arcades growing up?

BRENNER
Alright, Ludlow, I think you should stay here on the ground. Save as many people as possible. Me, Violet and Q-bert have a date with the mothership.

Ludlow hugs Brenner hard.

LUDLOW
Live long. Laugh much. Love often.

BRENNER
Use deodorant.

Ludlow can't help but smile. He leaves, laser cannon blasting.

EXT. STREET, DC - DAY

Ludlow is jogging down the street, blasting BERZERK robots and DIG-DIG dragons (coming out of the ground).

He then comes upon a bus full of KIDS trying to get out of the city. It's SURROUNDED by A GROUP OF GIDDY GOONS (DRAGON'S LAIR CHARACTERS). The Goons CLIMB the bus, trying to get inside.

LUDLOW
Get away from those kids now! ...*Please*.

It's Ludlow so it doesn't sound *that badass*. Also he added please. The Goons turn. Ludlow BLASTS THEM. They DE-RES. The CHILDREN CHEER from inside the bus. Ludlow waves, then sees... stepping out from BEHIND THE BUS. It's PRINCESS DAPHNE. Ludlow's JAW DROPS. SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TEEN LUDLOW'S BEDROOM, THE 80'S - FLASHBACK

WE SEE YOUNG LUDLOW standing in front of a poster of PRINCESS * DAPHNE.

YOUNG LUDLOW
Princess Daphne, I'll love you til the end of time.

CUT BACK TO THE PRESENT: EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - NIGHT

Ludlow stares, as she moves toward him. With each step, she becomes MORE REAL, until she is NO LONGER CGI. But totally FLESH and BLOOD. Ludlow LOWERS his weapon. Smitten.

LUDLOW
I spent most of my formative years trying to figure out a way to make you come to life all *Weird Science* style. I used every birthday wish, every shooting star, every 11:11 on the clock. I prayed for this.

She GROWLS AND CHARGES HIM WITH HER SWORD.

LUDLOW (CONT'D)
...but without a sword! *

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - STREETS - DAY

Brenner, Violet and Q-bert are moving in the direction that everybody else is fleeing from. In the BACKGROUND WE HEAR EXPLOSIONS and see CLOUDS OF PIXELATED SMOKE.

They turn a corner to see chaos. Two SECRET SERVICE AGENTS * are firing at a FROGGER, and calling for back-up. The Frogger * jumps SLOWLY, pixellating anyone or anything it lands on. The * AGENTS begin falling back on a half-wrecked limo, which is * violently shaking from inside.

INT. LIMO - DAY - CONTINUOUS

It's rocking because President Cooper is on his back, angrily trying to kick open the door with both feet.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Stupid! Fricking! Bulletproof! Door!

EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Frogger is closing in on the limo. *

VIOLET
Look!

She points out the American flags on the front of the limo. It's the President.

BRENNER
Chewie!

As Brenner RUNS for the limo, Violet fires her light-cannon at the Frogger. Nothing happens. *

Brenner reaches the limo and tries the door, but it's stuck. He peers in the window.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
You stuck in there, Chewie?

Through the window, Cooper gives him a "no shit, Sherlock" look.

VIOLET (O.C.)
Brenner! We got a problem-- the * light-cannons don't work! *

The Frogger is now JUST ONE LEAP away from Brenner and the * limo.

Brenner yanks frantically on the door as Cooper kicks from inside, the shadows of the Frogger looming over him. *

BRENNER
There's no shooting in Frogger!
We've got no way to stop them.

Suddenly, Q-bert starts jumping up and down excitedly. He closes his eyes, DE-PIXELATES and RE-PIXELATES into one of the CROCODILES from FROGGER.

The Croc scrambles over to the Frogger and SLAMS his mighty * jaw shut on him. PIXELS SHOOT OUT of the Croc's mouth like he just bit into a tomato. *

His work done, the Croc closes its eyes, and RE-PIXELATES into Q-Bert.

ZZZZZZZZZZ - Cooper lowers the power window, and sticks his * head out. *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Did we know Q-Bert could do that?

BRENNER
No. Did you know your window still * worked? *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes.

BRENNER
Did you pretend you didn't know that because you were scared to leave your car?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes.

BRENNER
Don't worry, Daddy's got you now. Surprised I'm back on the team?

President Cooper starts climbing out the window.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Nope. I knew you had to finish something you started at some point. Figured a massive alien invasion is as good a time as any-

VIOLET
Mr. President, I'm sorry, we gotta get moving.

Violet TAKES OFF. Cooper give Brenner a "that-suit-is-pretty-sexy" look; Brenner gives Cooper a cocky "yeah-that's-my girlfriend" look in response. Then they run after her, round the corner and see..

THE MASSIVE MOTHERSHIP, HOVERING almost directly above them.

Suddenly, with a deafening rattle, the portal OPENS. The BEAM SHOOTS OUT. Violet is grimly determined, but Brenner and Cooper exchange TERRIFIED glances.

Brenner sticks his arm into the beam. It depixelates, and the cubes fly up toward the mothership. Brenner winks at Violet, then steps all the way in, instantly de-pixelating. Violet follows. Cooper looks at Q-Bert, terrified.

COOPER
Shoulda stayed in the car!

But then braces himself and steps into it. Q-Bert, laughing to himself, does an impersonation.

Q-BERT
Shoulda stay in caaaaar!

Q-Bert steps into the beam.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - CONTINUING - DAY *

Brenner, Cooper, Violet and Q-Bert RE-PIXELATE and slowly OPEN their eyes and see that they're still alive.

The inside of the ship resembles A HUGE WAREHOUSE. It's SMOKY, DARK. In front of them they see A METAL BARREL. It says OIL. All of a sudden it lights up, a FIRE in it. This now illuminates METAL RAMPS AND SCAFFOLDING that go way up. They look around, wondering what this is.

BRENNER
Where are we? Q-bert, what is this place?

Q-BERT
This is... *neeeewwww!*

Suddenly, THEY HEAR A DEAFENING POUNDING FROM ABOVE.

COOPER *
What the hell is that noise?! *

The POUNDING CONTINUES FROM ABOVE AND IT'S GETTING LOUDER, CLOSER, FASTER.

They all wait for it. Then we see what it is: A GIANT BARREL. Which flies down the RAMPS TOWARDS THEM.

BRENNER
GET DOWN! *

They dive to the ground and it flies over them.

VIOLET
Are we in a game?! *

Brenner looks around at the SCAFFOLDING and the LADDERS and it dawns on him what this is. He is devastated.

BRENNER
Donkey Kong.

Way at the top of the scaffolding IS **DONKEY KONG: big and** *
come to life. He pounds his chest. *

PRESIDENT COOPER *
It had to be Donkey Kong... *

VIOLET
Matty! *

She's pointing to a cell way at the top, behind Donkey Kong. Matty, the Indian Kid and the Airman are inside. *

MATTY *
Mom! *

Donkey Kong starts TOSSING BARRELS down the ramps. There is no room for them to avoid them if they want to get to the top. THIS SHOULD LOOK JUST LIKE THE GAME COME TO LIFE.

PRESIDENT COOPER
I mean, it's a *barrel!* How bad could it hurt?

With that ANOTHER BARREL comes SMASHING DOWN. IT LEAVES A GIANT DENT IN THE METAL GROUND AND THEN LANDS ON AND CRUSHES THE OIL BARREL TO NOTHING EXTINGUISHING THE FIRE.

Q-BERT
Baaaaad.

EXT. BACK ON THE GROUND - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Princess Daphne ATTACKS Ludlow with her sword. Ludlow, conflicted, DEFLECTS the blows with his light cannon.

LUDLOW
You don't have to do this, my love, I sense the good in you.

She screams and with one vicious SWING, SLICES HIS LIGHT CANNON IN HALF. Ludlow gulps, grabs one of the DE-RES'D GOON'S SWORDS and continues fighting with her.

INT. SPACESHIP - DAY

THE BARRELS ARE HEADING TOWARDS THEM from above FAST AND FURIOUSLY.

They JUMP the first barrel, and the second... but there are MORE and MORE BARRELS COMING. THEY DUCK UNDER SOME, JUMP OVER OTHERS.

They run to the ladder. Brenner watches a barrel roll over head on the ramp above.

BRENNER
Get up the ladder! *FAST!!*

They all quickly climb the ladder. The barrels now fall and roll under them.

They get up to the next ramp. BUT THEN ARE ALMOST KILLED BY A FLAMING BARREL.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Incoming!!

They all drop to the ground. Q-bert looks traumatized. They get up and keep running.

VIOLET
(losing it)
My son! I gotta get up there!

Brenner sees a HAMMER at the end of the ramp. He smiles.

BRENNER
The hammer. Come on.

A BUNCH OF BARRELS ARE on their way, rolling on the ramp directly above them. Brenner sees them and the HAMMER. And it's a RACE. To see if he gets to the hammer before the barrels get to and CRUSH THEM.

He charges towards it. We MOVE UP and see the barrels are rolling faster right above him. He runs FASTER. The FIRST BARREL DROPS DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL.

Brenner JUMPS FOR THE HAMMER, GRABS IT AND OBLITERATES THE BARREL. He SMASHES the oncoming barrels.

ANOTHER BARREL CATCHES FIRE AS IT ROLLS TOWARD THEM. He hits it too.

He takes out all the barrels in their path. He looks back at Cooper and Q-bert who smile. The hammer depixelates.

Then a BARREL suddenly drops from above, crushing Q-Bert.

MATTY
Q-bert!!!!

But they don't have time to dwell they are still in the middle of the game. Donkey Kong sees them and ROARS. He starts throwing MORE BARRELS. THERE ARE TOO MANY.

Brenner watches it. Then looks down at the fallen Q-bert.

BRENNER
It's done. We're not gonna make it.

MATTY
(calling down)
Brenner! Remember: if someone programmed it, there's a pattern! You just need to find it!

Brenner looks up, counting barrels, mumbling to himself.

BRENNER
I can't see it...

PRESIDENT COOPER
Jules - Eddie cheated at Donkey Kong back in '82. You know what that means?

BRENNER
(dawning on him)
I'm the Donkey Kong champion of the world...

PRESIDENT COOPER
And the Donkey Kong champion of the world sees the patterns!

BRENNER'S POV - a random jumble of barrels.

BRENNER
I... it's...

Violet suddenly grabs his face and kisses him hard. Then...

VIOLET
Finish.

Re-encouraged, he looks up at the barrels once more, calculating... TIME SLOWS DOWN. Brenner sees how they all roll, drop, how they are thrown: it's not random at all!

BRENNER
I see it. Do exactly what I do.

He extends his hand, holding hands with Cooper and Violet. They take off- RUNNING, JUMPING, CLIMBING, TIMING IT PERFECT.

They leap or duck under every barrel. They are getting closer and closer. And Donkey Kong is throwing EVERYTHING HE HAS AT THEM. But this time Brenner has this. Not giving up when it gets hard, pushing past and...BEATING IT.

He is near the top. He sees the SECOND HAMMER. He grabs it and STARTS SMASHING AWAY. BARREL AFTER BARREL.

Then SECTIONS OF THE SCAFFOLDING START FALLING AWAY, just like in the higher levels of the game. But Brenner is in the zone, jumping at exactly the right time.

He climbs to the top level. SMASH, SMASH, SMASH. He take everything out. And goes past Donkey Kong.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Game over!!!!

Brenner then raises the hammer and SMASHES the lock on cage.

Donkey Kong roars. We hear the MASSIVE SOUND OF VICTORY!

Matty, the captured HANDSOME PILOT and the INDIAN TEENAGER emerge from the cell.

Matty and Violet embrace. The Pilot salutes Cooper, and then they embrace.

Brenner, not sure what to do, hugs the Indian Teenager. When it breaks, he smiles at Violet. Then they remember-

INDIAN TEEN
Q-bert!

They all rush down to wear he fell and was flattened. They all look down at him sadly.

BRENNER
I'm so sorry, little buddy. You died a hero.

Suddenly Q-Bert's eyes POP OPEN. He puts his THUMB in his mouth, puffs out his cheeks and his body POPS BACK OUT TO NORMAL.

BRENNER (CONT'D)
Of course. You couldn't be hurt by them... You're one of them!

Q-BERT
(back to life)
I---need---a---driiiink.

PRESIDENT COOPER
All right, Q-ball, take us to the Zorex!

EXT. WASHINGTON DC STREET - DAY

Ludlow is still SWORDFIGHTING Princess Daphne. Finally he throws down his sword and DROPS TO HIS KNEES.

LUDLOW
I won't fight you anymore. I know you have love in your heart and I know that I could make you happy. But if you need to kill me, then kill me, so be it. I'll die a happy man, knowing that I found true love.

He closes his eyes and waits. She stares at him. CONFUSED. Ludlow looks up at her. Their EYES MEET. Ludlow stands. She LOWERS her sword. Ludlow STEPS toward her, EMBRACES her, and they... KISS. It is a long, PASSIONATE kiss.

EDDIE PLANT (O.C.)
And I couldn't even get a *handshake* offa Sigourney Weaver!

Ludlow LOOKS UP to see EDDIE PLANT standing there ARMED WITH TWO LIGHT CANNONS.

LUDLOW
Didn't think we'd ever see you again.

EDDIE PLANT
I caused this, I gotta help make it right.

Eddie BLASTS two nearby OSTRICHS from JOUST who are chasing a lady with a stroller. *

LUDLOW *
Guess you're not as big of a dick as we all thought. *

EDDIE PLANT
Yeah. Don't tell anybody. Gonna introduce me to your girlfriend? *

LUDLOW *
(smiles at Daphne) *
Fiancee. *

INT. MOTHERSHIP, ENERGY GENERATOR ROOM - DAY

The door opens. In the center is the **ZOREX.** It's the exact same shape and size of an OLD SCHOOL ARCADE GAME. Countless wires extend from the console, attached to energy devices in the walls and a POD which spits out the ENERGY CREATURES. It spits out A SMURF. He seems so excited to be alive. He takes a breath, then BLAST. Cooper shoots him. He de-res's. A look of anger on his face as he pixelates and his short life ends. *

PRESIDENT COOPER *
When we were kids, did you ever think that someday we would *
actually be in a spaceship, shooting an actual laser gun while trying to save the world? *

BRENNER/INDIAN TEEN/AIRMAN *
Yes...Totally...Without a doubt... *

FAMILIAR KID'S VOICE
Hey, Brenner.

Brenner turns, AIMS his gun. His jaw drops. *

We see that the ALIENS'S FINAL GUISE IS **YOUNG BRENNER, YOUNG LUDLOW, AND YOUNG EDDIE** from the film's opening. *

ALIEN KID BRENNER
We come to you in these forms out of respect for you and the other champions who have beaten us today. *

BRENNER
Stay back or we'll blow up this ship and all of you with it. I don't care if you're me. *

ALIEN KID COOPER
There will be no need for that, Jules. We admit you have won.

ALIEN KID LUDLOW
Because of your victory you can now destroy our planet.

The three all bow their heads in sadness.

PRESIDENT COOPER
Wait, we don't want to destroy your planet. We never did.

ALIEN KID LUDLOW
(confused)
Then why did you send us that declaration of war?

BRENNER
That wasn't a declaration of war! They were just games. Games that we played for fun. We don't want to hurt anybody.

The Aliens seem thrown by this. They don't understand.

LUDLOW (OVER THE WALKIE)
BRENNER! BRENNER!!!

BRENNER
Lud, a little busy right now.

LUDLOW (O.S.)
Um, things aren't going so well down here, Jules!

EXT. DC STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Eddie, Ludlow and Princess Daphne are being CHASED BY THE CAVALCADE OF ARCADE GAME CREATURES. Eddie fires back at them as he goes.

EDDIE PLANT
TELL HIM WHATEVER HE'S DOING TO HURRY THE EFF UP!

INT. ENERGY ROOM, MOTHERSHIP - CONTINUOUS

ALIEN KID BRENNER
So you *don't* want to destroy us?

PRESIDENT COOPER
No. And we definitely don't want you to destroy us.
(The Aliens take this in.)
(MORE)

PRESIDENT COOPER (CONT'D)
In fact I'd like to broker a peace between our two worlds so we can both live together in harmony.

Q-BERT
(autotuned)
Harmonyyyyyy...

LUDLOW (OVER WALKIE)
BRENNER, WE ARE ABOUT TO DIE VIOLENTLY, STOP DICKING AROUND AND-

ALIEN KID LUDLOW
Calm down, Ludlow!

LUDLOW (OVER WALKIE)
Who was that? Was that me?

The three Alien kids laugh.

BRENNER
Hey guys... If we're doing this peace thing do you think you could turn off the Zorex?

Alien Kid Brenner goes behind the Zorex and unplugs it.

EXT. DC STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY

The ARCADE CREATURES CLOSE IN on our Guys and Princess Daphne, who continue to fight. But it's a LOSING BATTLE. As the creatures MOVE IN FOR THE KILL...

THEY BEGIN TO DE-RES. PIXELATE. And DISAPPEAR.

Ludlow turns, and Princess Daphne PIXELATES and DE-RESES before his very eyes!

EDDIE PLANT
We won. NO MORE TAXES!

But Ludlow is CRUSHED.

LUDLOW
Daphneeeeeeeee!!

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - DAY

A jumble of multi-colored pixels drops out of the mothership onto the White House lawn. As they land, they re-pixelate into Brenner, Cooper, Violet, Matty, Q-Bert, the Indian kid and the Airman. PEOPLE on the ground have gathered to cheer them. Eddie runs up.

EDDIE PLANT
I can't believe I did it! I mean, we did it! I mean, you did it!

BRENNER *
Eddie?

EDDIE PLANT
Look, I just wanted to say I'm sorry I cheated back when we were kids, and also for cheating again * more recently. I don't have to go * back to prison, do I?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Nah, I must have a spare pardon somewhere in my desk...

This group of three friends all exchange a smile. Brenner * looks up to see the First Lady standing there, staring at him fondly.

FIRST LADY
There's my hero... *

She runs to him - then past him, to her husband, President Cooper. She kisses him, then hugs him tight. Cooper gives * Brenner a look over her shoulder - "I'm getting lucky tonight". Brenner notices that Ludlow is upset and walks over to him.

BRENNER
Ludlow, what's wrong buddy?

LUDLOW
You all got what you wanted. Brenner, you got the girl; Eddie * got out of jail and me... For one moment I had the one thing I always wanted and now... she's gone.

Brenner, confused, turns to Eddie, who explains.

EDDIE PLANT
Princess Daphne. When you guys saved the world... You kinda' destroyed his.

BRENNER
Sorry about that, Lud. But ya' know, we had to do what was best for the other 7 or so billion people out there.

Ludlow nods, sadly. Then Q-bert starts jumping up and down excitedly. He RE-PIXELATES INTO..

PRINCESS DAPHNE.

Ludlow runs and kisses her. Everybody is touched, except * Brenner. *

BRENNER (CONT'D)
No one else is weirded out right now? *

A group of PRESS PEOPLE run across the lawn toward them.

PRESS PERSON
Mr. President, are we out of danger?

PRESIDENT COOPER
Yes. In fact, I am pleased to announce that I have brokered a peace treaty with the Alien Invaders.

INT. GEORGETOWN MANSION - DAY *

PRESIDENT COOPER (ON THE TV)
This peace was due to and only due to the bravery of the Arcaders, who against all odds stepped up and saved us all. *

INT. GENERAL PORTERS'S HOUSE - DAY *

General Porter, unshaven and in sweats, sneers at the TV. *

PRESIDENT COOPER (ON THE TV)
They faced the doubters and the naysayers, and came up big when we needed them most.

General Porter flips the bird at the TV. *

INT. HOOTERS - DAY *

PRESIDENT COOPER (ON THE TV)
And we all owe them our greatest debt.

In a rear booth, Dan watches TV. He smiles.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - DAY

Brenner, Eddie, Ludlow, Violet and Matty are watching Cooper finish his speech. *

PRESIDENT COOPER
Julian Brenner, Ludlow McNally and Eddie Plant are American heroes. World heroes. *

The assembled press cheers. Violet turns to Brenner.

VIOLET
"World hero?" I guess you're never gonna' finish installing my home theater system now.

BRENNER
I might be able to fit you in a week from Tuesday.

VIOLET
Can’t you do it any sooner? I’ll make it worth your while...

Violet and Brenner kiss. CAMERA CRANES BACK, as Cooper and all of them are congratulated by the celebratory crowd, swarming them, thanking them.

The Wino, riding the Duck Hunt Dog, zooms through frame. *

WINO *
Yee-hah! *

THE END *